FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

29 DECEMBER 1986

Iran-Iraq War

Iranian Offensive — Iraqi military communiques broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio announced the defeat of a major Iranian offensive on the southern front 24-26 December, claiming that 50,380 Iranians were killed in battles that centered around Umm al-Rasas and other islands in the Shatt al-'Arab. The Iraqi command said its III and VII Corps destroyed 1,016 boats, 422 vehicles, and 8 tanks in a "great harvest" of enemy forces. The radio broadcast an Iraqi commander's statement to journalists that Iraqi troops were able to expel the Iranians from all the footholds they had gained.

However, an Iranian military spokesman cited by IRNA described the Iranian attack, codenamed Karbala IV, as a "limited" offensive aimed at destroying Iraqi troop and artillery positions, adding that Iranian troops returned to their bases after achieving their objectives. Iraq is trying to "make a mountain out of a molehill" in an attempt to boost its troop morale, he asserted. On Iraqi casualties, Tehran radio claimed that over 3,000 Iraqis were killed and some 6,500 were wounded in the Iranian offensive.

In other military developments, Iraqi communiques announced further Iraqi air strikes on the Bakhtaran area 24 December and on maritime targets in the Gulf 26 and 28 December. Iran's claim to have shot down several Iraqi aircraft over the southern battlefronts was denied by an Iraqi spokesman cited by WAKH.

Regarding Iranian manpower requirements, Tehran radio broadcast an appeal by the Revolution Guards Corps for more volunteers to register for military training.

Tehran Explosion — A number of people were injured when ammunition at a Tehran military garrison exploded accidentally 27 December, IRNA reported, quoting "informed sources." Iranian opposition sources in London claimed that over 500 Revolution Guards were killed in the blast, according to KUNA.

Iraqi Opposition — A 4-day conference on solidarity with the Iraqi people was concluded in Tehran 28 December, Tehran radio noted, adding that the meeting was attended by over 400 Iraqi militants. The conferees called for the formation of a military committee to coordinate their activities against the Iraqi regime, IRNA disclosed. Regarding the military situation in Iraqi Kurdistan, Tehran radio claimed that an Iraqi battalion surrendered 28 December to forces of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan.

Attempted Hijack, Crash of Iraqi Airliner

An Iraqi source cited by WAKH stated that Iranian agents of Lebanese nationality were responsible for the 25 December attempt to hijack an Iraqi airliner, which crashed during a forced landing in Saudi Arabia. An Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman denied any Iranian involvement in the incident, IRNA noted. Responsibility for the hijacking was claimed by various groups in Beirut including the "Revolutionary Action Organization," which warned of further attacks unless Iraq releases three of its members, according to Beirut radio.

The Saudi authorities had announced the crash at 'Ar'ar Airport in a communique broadcast by Riyadh radio, noting that 62 people were killed, 32 were injured, and 12 escaped unhurt. The survivors included former Jordanian Interior Minister Sulayman 'Arar, who subsequently related to Amman's *Al-Dustur* how the forced landing occurred after hijackers exploded a grenade and exchanged fire with Iraqi guards on the aircraft. AFP noted reports that two Lebanese hijackers survived but were seriously injured.

In the wake of the incident, President Saddam Husayn held a 2-hour meeting with King Fahd during a visit to Saudi Arabia for the minor pilgrimage, Voice of the Masses reported. At the conclusion of his visit the Iraqi leader sent a cable to Fahd affirming that bilateral relations will be strengthened and expressing gratitude for Saudi hospitality, the radio noted.

Lebanon

French Hostage's Release -- Following Aurel Cornea's release 24 December, Paris radio broadcast French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac's remarks thanking Palestinian officials as well as the Algerian, Syrian, and Lebanese authorities for assisting the release of the French hostage. The "Organization of Revolutionary Justice" had released Cornea as a gesture in response to "changes" in France's policy, according to AFP.

Security — Beirut radio and other local stations reported sporadic Amal-Palestinian clashes over the Christmas period. An Amal Movement statement carried by Beirut radio blamed the DFLP for an attack on Amal personnel in the Al-Biqa' Valley 25 December, noting that six Amal men were killed or wounded when their bus was ambushed. A Libyan diplomat was assassinated in Al-Biqa' the same day, according to Tripoli radio, which broadcast a cable from the DFLP accusing Amal of the killing.

In northern Lebanon, Syrian forces continued to hunt their opponents over Christmas, Beirut radio reported, adding that more than 30 people were killed in clashes east of Tripoli. The clandestine Radio Free Lebanon said the Syrians have arrested a number of shaykhs, and Voice of Lebanon radio noted that they are trying to track down Hashim Minqarah, a leader of the Islamic Unification Movement (IUM). In a related development in the Syrian capital, Damascus radio reported that IUM leader Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban discussed the Tripoli situation with President Hafiz al-Asad 28 December, adding that Sha'ban condemned the "failed attempt by a certain group" to undermine

Tripoli's security and that he emphasized Syria's "principal role" in maintaining security in the city.

In southern Lebanon, the IDF killed over 10 "terrorists" in a 24 December raid on the village of Maydun, 3 km north of Israel's security zone, Jerusalem radio reported. The attack was directed against members of Hizballah and left-wing Shi'ite organizations.

Israel

Shamir Cleared — The inquiry commission into the killing of bus hijackers in 1984 has concluded that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir did not give any directive to kill the terrorists and that he did not support the falsification of evidence after the event, Jerusalem television reported. The commission rejected former Shin Bet chief Avraham Shalom's claims about Shamir's role, the television said, and Shamir has asked the attorney general to publish the results of the inquiry.

Vanunu Trial — Reporting on the 28 December opening session of Mordekhay Vanunu's trial, Jerusalem radio noted that he pleaded not guilty to charges of espionage and collaborating with the enemy.

Palestinians — Al-Sha'b editor Akram Haniyah was deported from Israel 28 December, Jerusalem radio reported, adding that Haniyah was charged with involvement in hostile activities against Israel on behalf of Fatah. Two youths were injured in a clash with IDF soldiers in Ramallah the same day, the radio disclosed.

Egypt

Mubarak Visit to Jordan — During a working visit to Jordan 28 December, President Husni Mubarak and Jordanian King Husayn held talks on the situation in the Arab and Islamic world in preparation for the Islamic summit in Kuwait, an Egyptian official told MENA, adding that the atmosphere was "constructive and amicable."

Relations With Syria — A "ranking Syrian envoy" recently made a secret visit to Cairo during which the two countries agreed to halt their slanderous media exchanges, according to a 26 December *Al-Qabas* report cited by KUNA.

Protests in Asyut — AFP cited Egyptian press reports that 124 members of "extremist religious organizations" were arrested in Asyut 26 December as antiriot police used teargas to disperse fundamentalist demonstrators who disrupted Friday prayers.

Libya

Chadian Conflict — Libyan troops captured Zoauar oasis from Chadian forces 28-29 December, according to "reliable" sources cited by AFP. Earlier, Chadian sources in Paris stated that Chadian forces repulsed Libyan attacks over Christmas, killing 500 Libyans and downing 3 planes, the agency reported. AFP also noted that Chadian Government troops had arrived from the south to reinforce Goukouni Oueddei supporters. In Libya, Voice of Greater Arab Homeland radio reported that the Chadian "masses" sent Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi a message hailing GUNT's "splendid victory" over the "remnants of mutineer Habre." The Foreign Liaison Bureau summoned the French ambassador to protest France's "policy of hostile escalation" in Chad and to warn of its potentially serious consequences, Tripoli radio disclosed 24 December.

PLO Office — The PLO reopened its office in Tripoli, Sanaa Voice of Palestine radio announced 25 December.

Internal Issues — In 27 December remarks to General People's Congress officials cited by Voice of Greater Arab Homeland, Al-Qadhdhafi declared that those who refuse to exercise the people's power by not attending the basic people's congress sessions will lose their civil rights. He also stressed the importance of the people's defense committees in the consolidation of the people's authority.

Sudan

Sudan Air resumed its Khartoum-Juba passenger flights 27 December, SUNA reported, adding that cargo flights began last week. The flights had been suspended after the SPLA downed a civilian plane 16 August.

Iran-Pakistan

Tehran radio reported that an Iranian naval officer was kidnapped and murdered in Karachi 25 December, asserting that "agents of global arrogance" were responsible.

Iranian and Pakistani officials began discussions the same day in Tehran on a possible exchange of Iranian oil for Pakistani goods, the radio noted.

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KUWAIT

Paper Cites PLO Aid in French Hostage Release

NC271359 Paris AFP in English 1343 GMT 27 Dec 86

[Text] Kuwait, Dec 27 (AFP) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasir 'Arafat and his number two Salah Khalaf "directly supervised" the release from Lebanon of French hostage Aurel Cornea on Wednesday, the Kuwaiti daily *Al-Qabas* said Saturday.

Quoting informed sources, the paper said the two men had played an "essential" role in Mr. Cornea's release by the shadowy Islamic fundamentalist Organisation for Revolutionary Justice (ORJ).

French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac publicly thanked "Palestinian leaders" for their part in freeing Mr. Cornea, a sound man for the French state-owned channel Antenne 2. French Security Minister Robert Pandraud said those leaders belonged to the PLO.

Al-Qabas quoted an unnamed leading Palestinian, who said the PLO "was determined to continue its efforts to secure the freedom" of French hostages and that it was prepared to work for the freedom of U.S. and other western hostages if asked.

Al-Qabas said three factors had contributed to the release of Mr. Cornea — co-operation between the PLO and all-important Algerian negotiators, historical links between the PLO mainstream group Fatah and the Moslem fundamentalist Hizballah (Party of God) in Lebanon, and secret contacts between a Palestinian leader and Iranian officials.

The paper said such Iranian officials had influence with kidnappers, who did not want to damage relations with Fatah, and named Iran's minister of the Revolutionary Guard, Mohsen Rafiqdust.

Meanwhile a Palestinian source in Amman said the PLO was discussing with Omani authorities the possibility of setting up an office in Muscat.

PLO Reopens Tripoli Office; Delegation To Visit

JN251711 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 25 Dec 86

[Text] The PLO office in the Libyan capital, Tripoli, has been reopened after Brother Sulaymen al-Shurafa, the PLO representative in Libya, took charge of it. The newspaper *Al-Ittihad* cited Arab diplomatic sources as saying that the return of the PLO representative to Libya crowns recent intensive Palestinian-Libyan contacts and Libyan President Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's stand on the camps war, which helped the resumption of normal relations with the PLO. A high-ranking Palestinian delegation is expected to pay an imminent visit to Libya at the invitation of the Libyan leadership.

Arab League Begins Efforts To Settle Camps War

LD252148 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 25 Dec 86

[Excerpt] It has been learned this evening from an Arab diplomatic source in Tunis that the ministerial committee of the Arab League, entrusted with [words indistinct] the camps war, has begun contacts with Lebanese and Syrian authorities to end the fighting around Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon between defenders of these camps and Shi'ite Amal forces.

The committee, which was set up by the recent emergency Arab League meeting, has sent messages to the Lebanese and Syrian authorities in the hope that these authorities may be able to contribute to facilitating the committee's mission and not as parties to the current conflict. However, the committee has not yet received any replies from these authorities regarding a request to go to Beirut to make contacts with the conflicting parties.

The source said that the committee will hold a meeting on 3 January in Tunis to review the results of its contacts with the parties to the conflict and determine an action plan for the next stage of its activities before the resumption of the Arab League council meeting on 11 January for the third time since its first meeting on 8 December. [passage omitted]

Klibi Meets With Qaddumi

LD270912 Kuwait KUNA in English 0803 GMT 27 Dec 86

[Text] Tunis, Dec 27 (KUNA) — Secretary General of the Arab League Chadli Klibi, met here last night with head of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) Political Department Faruq Qaddumi.

Qaddumi said they discussed Palestinian affairs, particularly the camps war in Lebanon and efforts made by the league to end the war.

The role of the ministerial committee formed by the league council in its latest extraordinary meeting to solve the crisis, was later reviewed, the Palestinian official added.

Qaddumi expressed hope for an agreement to hold an Arab summit in the near future pointing out that talks during the meeting tackled this issue.

Qaddumi said he briefed Klibi on the outcome of his recent tours and the European countries' stance towards the Palestinian cause especially the European Parliament resolution that supported an independent Palestinian state.

Draft Agreement Reached

JN261453 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 24 Dec 86 p 9

[Text] Damascus — No meetings were held on the camps war in Damascus yesterday pending the return of Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, assistant secretary general of the DFLP, and 'Abd Al-rahim

Malluh, a PFLP official, from Sidon, the capital of southern Lebanon. The two officials were entrusted by the Lebanese and Palestinian parties and the Libyan and Iranian mediators with holding contacts with the pro-'Arafat Fatah leadership to inform them of the aforementioned parties' agreement on exerting pressure on the organization to force it to withdraw its forces from Maghdushah and to observe the cease-fire agreement.

George Hawi, secretary general of the Lebanese Communist Party, has revealed to *Al-Ittihad* that an agreement was reached on the following four points, which were proposed by the Lebanese nationalist parties and forces:

1. The issuance of a political statement by the Lebanese nationalist parties with the aim of exposing 'Arafat and portraying him as the one who impedes the implementation of the agreement.
2. The issuance of a joint statement by the nationalist parties and the Palestinian factions that are now meeting in Damascus with the aim of exposing 'Arafat's loyalists. The signatories to the joint statement will also pledge to adhere to a unified Palestinian-Lebanese stand toward the party which violates theagreement.
3. Organizing political, information, and mass campaigns to force a peaceful withdrawal of 'Arafat's loyalists from Maghdushah.
4. Forming a joint Lebanese nationalist-Palestinian military force with the participation of all parties, including the Islamic parties and forces, and precisely specifying its duties to help implement the agreement and confront the party that prevents the implementation of the agreement be it Palestinian or Lebanese.

Some informed Palestinian sources in Damascus believe the Amal Movement's agreement on these points is the key factor that may contribute toward implementing the Iranian initiative. According to observers, this will lead to a temporary truce that may endure for a while, pending the arrival of the Arab good offices committee that was asked by the Arab League to find a solution to the camps war in Lebanon and the results of its mission.

PNSF, DFLP, Abu Nidal Hit Amal

JN262031 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 2000 GMT 26 Dec 86

[Text] The PNSF, the DFLP, and the Abu Nidal group have distributed a joint statement in Beirut in which they condemned the Amal Movement's negative stand toward the search for a solution to the camps war and Amal's rejection of the initatives to end the bloodshed, particularly the 10-point plan prepared by Syria and Libya on which all of the Palestinian factions agreed.

KUWAIT

Foreign Minister Confirms ICO Meeting Attendance

LD271204 Kuwait KUNA in English 1143 GMT 27 Dec 86

[Text] Kuwait 27 Dec (KUNA) — Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir said today that all ICO Islamic member-countries had agreed to attend the fifth Islamic summit due to be held in Kuwait on 26 January.

In a statement to newsmen, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir voiced optimism that the conference will be held on schedule and with the presence of all Muslim leaders. He further said: "The problems of the Islamic world are not simple, and if they are not resolved at this summit conference at this level and momentum, then complications will increase and they will be difficult to resolve at any other level."

Sabah al-Ahmad Receives Cuban Official, Ambassador

LD241855 Kuwait KUNA in English 1509 GMT 24 Dec 86

[Text] Kuwait, Dec 24 (KUNA) — Cuban Undersecretary for Foreign Affairs Giraldo Mazola, today handed Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad a message from Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca.

Mazola was accompanied by Undersecretary for Foreign Affairs Majid al-Shahin and the Cuban ambassador here.

Mazola, who is stopping here enroute Aden and Damascus, told reporters he exchanged views with Al-Shahin on means of developing relations between their two countries and described standing relations as "friendly and progressed rapidly to become on a positive par."

He said relations are not restricted to political dealings but are based on mutual cooperation in several domains. Cuba, added Mazola, is eager to maintain a constant development in relations, particularly with developing countries, with a view to set a model for relations among developing countries.

The Cuban undersecretary pointed out that a number of Cuban physicians were serving in Kuwait together with a number of consultants in the field of sports. He said several fields for developing and expanding relations existed.

He recalled as well that a number of Kuwaiti formative artists recently visited Cuba to participate in the second Havana bienale.

Kuwait and Cuba have earlier concluded a cultural agreement.

Mazola said that his talks with his Kuwaiti counterpart centered on the international situation, noting that the two sides' views were identical on most issues including the struggle for peace, mutual respect among nations, preserving independence and sovereignty of states and rejecting violence in international relations.

He noted that Al-Shahin briefed him on the efforts exerted by Kuwait to ensure the suicess of the fifth Islamic Summit Conference scheduled to convene here next month and Kuwait's determination to reach political settlements for regional conflicts in the area.

He pointed out that Cuba wishes all success for Kuwait's efforts to achieve peace in the region, to hasten a positive impact on the development process of the peoples in the region.

On the Iraq-Iran war Mazola said no peace-loving country will approve continuation of the ongoing Gulf War.

He added when the Gulf War broke out, the Cuban foreign minister devoted all his time as chairman of the Nonaligned Movement, to find a just settlement for the war through political means.

The Cuban foreign undersecretary recalled Cuban leader Fidel Castro's speech, before the seventh nonaligned summit in Harare, last August in which he deplored the failure of all attempts to end the conflict.

Mazola called for continuation of efforts to reach a just settlement to the Iraq-Iran War.

He stressed that the continuation of the war caused human and material losses in addition to the danger of its expansion which may give the Americans a larger footing in the area.

Mazola announced that his country will continue efforts to find a settlement to the seven-year-old Gulf War and denied that Cuba had supplied Iran with weapons.

The Cuban official stressed his country's support to Arab issues particularly the Palestinian cause pointing out that this problem represents the core of the Middle East conflict.

He said his country supports the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, the establishment of an independent state and recognize the Palestinian Liberation Organization as the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

On the international peace conference on the Middle East, he said Cuba and all peace-loving states support the convening of such a conference for a comprehensive settlement to the Palestinian problem.

Husaynun Delivers Al-'Attas Message to Amir

LD252306 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 0330 GMT 25 Dec 86

[Text] Brother Salih Abu Bakr ibn Husaynun, member of the Central Committee, deputy premier and minister of energy and minerals, yesterday delivered a letter on bilateral relations and the situation in the Arab and international arenas from Brother Haydar Abu Bakr al-Attas, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Presidium of the Peoples Supreme Council to his brother, His Royal Highness al-Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, ruler of the state of Kuwait, when the latter received Brother Salih Abu Bakr ibn Husaynun.

During the meeting, Brother Husaynun expressed gratitude to the ruler, government, and people of Kuwait for their fraternal aid to Democratic Yemen and for the care taken of the Yemeni community in Kuwait. He expressed our country's satisfaction at Kuwait's role in the Arab, Islamic, and international arenas. He referred to the importance of joint action to render successful the Islamic summit to be held in Kuwait next January.

For his part, His Royal Highness al-Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah expressed satisfaction at the development of relations between the two countries in all fields. He stressed that Kuwait would continue to provide support, facilities, and care for the Yemenis now living in their second country, Kuwait, as an embodiment of the historic ties linking the two fraternal peoples.

Meanwhile, in the morning of the same day, Brother Husaynun met his brother Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah, the crown prince and chairman of the Kuwaiti Council of Ministers, to whom he delivered a letter concerning the future development of relations between the two countries from his Brother Dr Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Council of Ministers.

Brother Husaynun, member of the Central Committee, deputy premier and minister of energy and minerals yesterday morning met his Brother 'Ali al-Khalifa al-Sabah, the Kuwaiti Oil Minister, with whom he discussed relations between the two fraternal countries and ways of developing them.

PDRY

YSP Secretary General Receives Cuba's Risquet

EA241200 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic
1630 GMT 23 Dec 86

[Text] YSP Central Committee Secretary General Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid received the Cuban Communist Party delegation currently visiting the PDRY led by Comrade Jorge Risquet, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Cuban Communist Party Central Committee in his office this morning. During the meeting, they discussed relations between the YSP and the Cuban Communist Party and ways of developing and strengthening them. They also discussed the latest developments in the international area as well as other issues of common interest.

During the meeting, the secretary general reviewed the measures taken by the Political Bureau and the Central Committee to deal with the effects of the 13 January abortive coup conspiracy, the reconstruction of the capital, the stabilization of the situation, and restoration of security and stability in all parts of the country. He expressed his deep appreciation at the development of the warm relations linking the parties and peoples of the two friendly countries on the basis of the common struggle against imperialism, zionism, and reaction and for peace and progress. He expressed high appreciation of Cuba's solidarity with the PDRY and our people's struggle to build a new life under the leadership of the YSP and to overcome all the conspiracies being hatched against our nationalist regime.

For his part, Comrade Risquet expressed high appreciation of the peaceful policies of the PDRY to bring about security and stability in the region and the measures being taken to reconstruct the capital, as well as the achievements of Democratic Yemen. He stressed Cuba's solidarity with the struggle of our people to build a new life.

The meeting was attended by Brothers Muhammad Sa'id 'Abdallah Muhsin, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Central Committee: Sa'id Askari 'Abdallah, member of the Central Committee and deputy secretary of the Central Committee: Dr Salih Muhsin, director of the Secretary General's office: and Muhammad 'Abd al-Rahman, PDRY ambassador to Cuba.

Risquet Ends Visit

EA252244 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic
1230 GMT 25 Dec 86

[Text] The Cuban Communist Party delegation led by Comrade Jorge Risquet, member of the Politburo and secretary of the Central Committee, left Aden this afternoon after a visit to our country lasting several days, during which he met a number of officials in the party and state leadership. He also held party talks culminating in the signing of a protocol on party cooperation for the coming years between the YSP and Cuban CP.

Comrade Jorge Risquet made a statement to ANA *[Aden News Agency]* in which he said: I leave Democratic Yemen with full confidence in progress of the revolutionary process in the country. He expressed his satisfaction at our people's overcoming the aftermath of the 13 January events. He praised the rallying of the people to the party and their steadfastness in overcoming the aftermath of the events. He also praised our country's achievements in the various fields [words indistinct] for the benefit of the two friendly countries and parties.

He was seen off at the airport by Comrades Muhammad Sa'id 'Abdallah Muhsin, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Central Committee: Muhammad Haydarah Masdus, candidate member of the Political Bureau and first secretary of the party organization committee in the Lahj governorate: and Sa'id Askari 'Abdallah, member of the Central Committee and deputy secretary of the Central Committee, in addition to a number of other officials and the Cuban ambassador in Aden.

SAUDI ARABIA

King 'Abd al-'Aziz Receives Iraqi President

LD281953 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1855 GMT 28 Dec 86

[Excerpts] Al-Ahsa', 28 December (SPA) — His Excellency Iraqi President Saddam Husayn arrived in Al-Ahsa' today for a visit to the Kingdom. King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, was at the airport to welcome him. Also there to welcome him were His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, crown prince, deputy prime minister and commander of the National Guard; and Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd

al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation and inspector general. [passage omitted]

After a brief rest in the royal lounge at the airport the custodian of the two holy mosques and the Iraqi president held a bilateral meeting.

The Iraqi president then left Al-Ahsa'. King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, was there to see him off at the airport. [passage omitted]

The Iraqi president had arrived at Jeddah Airport at 1540 yesterday and was welcomed on arrival by His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud ibn 'Abd al-Muhsin, deputy governor of Mecca region; Royal protocol department Chief His Excellency Muhammad 'Abd al-Rahman al-Shaykh; the Iraqi consul in the Kingdom, Engineer Sami Maqbul, director of the King 'Abd al-'Aziz Airport in Jeddah, and a number of senior military and civilian officials.

The Iraqi president and the accompanying delegation performed the minor pilgrimage accompanied by Foreign Minister His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal. His excellency was welcomed at the entrance of the holy mosque by His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud ibn 'Abd al-Muhsin and a number of military and civilian officials.

The Iraqi president left Jeddah at 1015 today for Al-Madinah accompanied by His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud ibn 'Abd al-Muhsin, deputy governor of Mecca region.

On arrival at al-Madinah Airport his excellency was welcomed by Al-Madinah Deputy Governor His Excellency Sa'd Nasir al-Sudayri, the mayor of Al-Madinah, the commander of the city of Al-Madinah, the chief of police of Al-Madinah, and a number of military and civilian officials. His excellency visited the holy mosque of the prophet and had the honor of praying there.

His excellency then left the holy mosque of the prophet for Al-Madinah Airport, where he was seen off by Al-Madinah Deputy Governor His Excellency Sa'ud Nasir al-Sudayri. [passage omitted]

President Saddam Husayn was accompanied on this visit by 'Issat Ibrahim, vice chairman of the Iraqi RCC; Minister of Culture and Information Latif Nusayyif Jasim; Secretary to the President Hamid Hammadi; and Air Lieutenant General Hamid Sha'ban, commander of the Iraqi Air Force and Air Defense.

Defense Ministry Communique on Iraqi Plane Crash

LD251846 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic
1835 GMT 25 Dec 86

[Text] The Ministry of Defence and Aviation released a communique today in which it announces the burning of an Iraqi Boeing 737 as it was attempting a forced landing in the 'Ar'ar airport. Here is the text of the communique:

While en route from Baghdad to Amman today, Thursday, 24.4.1407 Hegire, an Iraqi Boeing 737, Flight 163, in Saudi airspace, attempted at about 1230 to undertake a forced landing 'Ar'ar airport, but it failed to do so and crashed on the ground about 800 meters from the runway. This resulted in the burning of the aircraft.

The airport authorities immediately offered the necessary assistance in such cases in cooperation with government quarters in the region, sending mediacl evacuation airplanes immediately.

The accident resulted in the death of 62 passengers out of 91 passengers, in addition to 15 crewmen and a security man, while 12 passengers escaped uninjured. Those injured — 32 — have been taken to a hospital for medical treatment prior to their transportation to Baghdad at the request of the Iraqi authorities. Most of the injuries are not serious.

In regretting this accident, the Ministry of Defense and Aviation offers condolences to the relatives of the dead, praying to almighty God to bless their souls and to bestow solace and forbearance on their relatives.

Source Denies Group's Claims

LD271155 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1105 GMT 27 Dec 86

[Excerpts] Riyadh, 27 Dec (SPA) — Commenting on what was carried by both AFP *[Agence France-Presse]* and AP *[Associated Press]* quoting the so-called Revolutionary Islamic Movement's communique in Beirut last night, that the Saudi Air Force had threatened to shoot down the Iraqi airliner after it was taken over by the hijackers, which forced it to land in 'Ar'ar and permitted it to be stormed, and so forth, as was reported in the communique of this so-called movement, a responsible Saudi source told SPA:

Political and information sources, like us, have received with contempt and disapproval the triviality and lies contained in the aforementioned communique. How could it be conceivable for a reasonable man that Saudi authorities could have stormed a plane that had already crashed and caught fire, at a time when all the plane's survivors have affirmed the humanitarian actions dictated by Islamic duty and immediately undertaken by the Saudi authorities. This enabled them, with the help of God, to save the lives of 44 passengers, who have recorded their reports to the official authorities in their respective countries, with all the details of the story of the Iraqi airplane from the moment of its hijack until the time it crashed and caught fire. [passage omitted]

The source concluded his statement saying: If two major news agencies had not carried this groundless communique, it would not have been necessary to mention it at all.

King Fahd Receives Message From PDRY's Al-'Attas

EA290943 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic
1900 GMT 28 Dec 86

[Text] Brother Salih Abu Bakr ibn Husaynun, member of the Political Bureau, deputy premier and minister of energy and minerals, has delivered a letter from Brother Haydar Abu Bakr Al-'Attas, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the

Presidium of the People's Supreme Council, to his brother his Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, king of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The letter was received by His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers and minister of defense and aviation and the inspector general of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, when he received Brother Salih abu Bakr ibn Husaynun at his office this afternoon.

During the meeting there was a review of the fraternal bilateral relations and ways of developing them for the benefit of the two fraternal countries and peoples. There was also a review of the current situation in the Arab and international arenas. The meeting was attended by Brother 'Ali 'Abdallah al-Kaf, charge d'affaires of our embassy in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Ad-Din Nazir Confirmed as Oil Minister

LD241647 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1610 GMT 24 Dec 86

[Excerpt] Dammam, 24 Dec (SPA) — A royal decree was issued appointing Hisham Muhyi ad-Din Nazir as minister of petroleum and mineral resources and also entrusting him with the functions of planning minister.

YAR

President Salih Receives Libyan Official

JN250659 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 24 Dec 86

[Text] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, received Brother Major Al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi, member of the 1 September Revolution Command Council of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, in his office this morning. During the meeting, they discussed relations between the two revolutions, a number of issues of mutual concern, the situation in Arab and Islamic arenas, and ways to promote Arab solidarity and close ranks to confront the dangers posed to the Arab and Islamic nation.

Brother Al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi expressed his happiness and that of the accompanying delegation in participating in our country's celebrations of the inauguration of the great Ma'rib Dam, which remains an immortal symbol of Arab civilization and whose inauguration constitutes a great event in the lives of the Yemeni people. He praised our country's achievements in all fields under the leadership of Brother Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih in the march of the immortal 26 September Revolution.

SABA' has learned that the brother leader president has asked Brother Al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi to convey a message to his Brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan 1 September Revolution.

The meeting was attended by Brother Dr Hasan Makki, deputy prime minister and member of the Standing Committee.

Brother Major Al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi and his delegation left Sanaa this afternoon following a visit to our country during which he participated in the inauguration of the great Ma'rib Dam. He also conveyed a written message to the leader president from his Brother Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. In a predeparture statement to SABA', Major Al-Humaydi expressed happiness at deputizing for Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi in the celebrations of inaugurating the great Ma'rib Dam. He pointed out that he held several meetings with officials, headed by leader President Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, and discussed with them ways to bolster brotherly relations between the two revolutions and fraternal peoples.

He conveyed the fraternal Libyan people's congratulations to our Yemeni people on this great achievement and for all achievements realized thanks to the immortal 26 September Revolution and to the Yemeni will and vigor. He said history is repeating itself in Yemen and that this makes us all happy and proud. He stressed the strength of historical, militant, and revolutionary relations between the two fraternal peoples and countries.

Concluding his statement, Brother Maj al-Humaydi expressed his thanks and appreciation for our country — leadership, government, and people — for the warm welcome and hospitality. He explained he carried a reply message from Brother President Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih to his Brother Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

He was seen off by Brothers Hasan Makki, deputy prime minister and member of the Standing Committee; Lieutenant Colonel 'Abdallah Daris, adviser to the commander in chief; Lieutenant Colonel 'Ali Salah, deputy chief of staff for military affairs and member of the Standing Committee; Colonel Muhammad al-Shami, under secretary of the Interior Ministry for financial and administrative affairs; a number of members of the Standing Committee and the General People's Congress; an envoy from the president's office for protocol; and the director of the Libyan Brotherhood office in Sanaa.

Mubarak, Saddam Husayn Discuss Area Situation

NC261741 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1725 GMT 26 Dec 86

[Text] Cairo, 26 Dec (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak telephoned Iraqi President Saddam Husayn this evening.

The two presidents exchanged views on a number of regional issues.

President Mubarak also received assurances that the military situation on the Iraqi front is stable.

Kuwaiti Paper Reports Secret Talks With Syria

LD261008 Kuwait KUNA in English 0816 GMT 26 Dec 86

[Text] Kuwait, Dec 26 (KUNA) — A ranking Syrian envoy visited Cairo secretly last week and held extensive talks with Egyptian officials amid signs that Syria and Egypt were trying to heal a nine-year-old political rift between them, Kuwaiti newspaper *AL-QABAS* reported Friday.

The 36-hour visit of the unnamed Syrian official followed several contacts between Cairo and Damascus and a meeting in a European capital between officials from the two countries, *AL-QABAS* said in a Cairo-datelined dispatch quoting "a well-informed political source".

The Egyptian-Syrian talks, which were held in complete secrecy, failed to make the positions of the two sides less discordant on key political issues, yet the two countries agreed to halt slanderous media exchanges, according to the Kuwaiti newspaper.

By halting the war of words, Cairo and Damascus hoped to avert high tension when top-level delegations from both capitals meet during a month from now, the source told the paper.

He noted that in the unannounced talks, Syria and Egypt remained wide apart on such thorny issues as the Egyptian-Israeli Camp David accords, Syria's support for Iran against Iraq in the Gulf war and the Syrian-Palestinian relations in Lebanon.

Though key differences remained outstanding the two sides avoided any escalation and left the door "ajar" for further reconciliation bids, the source added.

Libyan 'Aggression' Against Chad Condemned

NC251236 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1225 GMT 25 Dec 86

[Text] Cairo, 25 Dec (MENA) — Egypt has renewed its condemnation of Libya's acts of aggression against northern Chad, which constitute a flagrant violation of the security and territorial integrity of a fraternal African state.

A Foreign Ministry official noted today that Egypt is following with great concern reports of the Libyan acts of aggression, which are aimed at heightening tension and causing instability in the region. He said that Egypt reiterates its support for the Chadian people and their legitimate government in their quest for national unity and territorial sovereignty.

Iran Ties Prisoners' Release to Arms Sales

PM241603 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 18 Dec 86 p 1, 4

[Unattributed report: "Iran Makes Egyptian Prisoners' Release Conditional on Cessation of Arms Supplies To Iraq"]

[Text] *AL-WAFD* has learned from important diplomatic sources that Iran has made the release of the Egyptian prisoners currently held in Iranian prisons conditional to the cessation of Egypt's supplying arms and ammunition supplies to Iraq. Iran has also demanded a letter from Egypt's political leadership confirming the suspension of such arms sales.

The Egyptian Government has had contacts with the United Nations to secure the release of Egyptian prisoners in Iran. Egypt also asked some Asian countries which have close relations with Iran to mediate with the Iranian Government for the release of the prisoners, who are being subjected to torture in the Iranian prisons.

AL-WAFD has learned that Iraq has expressed readiness to pay financial compensation for the Egyptian prisoners in Iran and to the families of the Egyptian volunteers killed in the war.

Mubarak Departs for Amman Visit 28 Dec

NC280914 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0855 GMT 28 Dec 86

[Text] Cairo, 28 Dec (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak and his wife left Cairo for Amman this morning. He will hold talks with King Husayn of Jordan as part of the constant consultations between the two countries.

Accompanying President Mubarak is a delegation that includes Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Dr Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs.

President Mubarak was seen off at Cairo Airport by People's Assembly Speaker Dr Rif'at al-Mahjub; Dr Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture and food security; Minister of Information Safwat al-Sharif; and Governor of Cairo Yusuf Sabri Abu Talib.

Returns From 2-Day Visit

NC291129 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1105 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Text] Cairo, 29 Dec (MENA) — President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, accompanied by his wife and the members of his delegation, returned home at midday today, following a 2-day visit to Jordan that included talks with his brother King Husayn. The president was met at the airport by Dr Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture and food production, and by Yusuf Sabri Abu Talib, the governor of Cairo.

Jordan's Al-Masri Confers With Al-Majid 24 Dec

NC241406 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1310 GMT 24 Dec 86

[Text] Cairo, 24 Dec (MENA) — Egyptian-Jordanian talks began at the Foreign Ministry at 1400 today. Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Jordanian Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri led their countries' delegations to the talks. Egypt was also represented by Ambassador Ahmad Hatatah, assistant foreign minister; Nuhad Riyad, head of the Arabic Department; Hasan Shash, head of the Cultural Department; and Hassan al-'Ibadi and Muhammad al-Rubi. The Jordanian delegation accompanying Foreign Minister al-Masri represented the Jordanian side.

Meets Mubarak

JN241638 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1450 GMT 24 Dec 86

[Text] Alexandria, 24 Dec (PETRA) — President Muhammad Husni Mubarak today received Jordanian Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri at the Al-Muntada Palace in Alexandria.

In a statement to the PETRA correspondent in Cairo after his meeting with Mubarak, Al-Masri said Mubarak paid tribute to the efforts being exerted by King Husayn to heal Arab rifts, unify Arab positions, and rally Arab efforts to face the dangers threatening them. He also expressed his pride in the development of the bilateral relations binding the two fraternal countries.

Al-Masri indicated that during the meeting, which was attended by Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, the director of the Foreign Ministry's Political Department, and Hasan Hamami, the Jordanian ambassador in Cairo, the two sides reviewed all issues of common interest and the latest developments in the Arab arena.

The official talks between the two countries' foreign ministers began in Cairo this afternoon. At the conclusion of the first round of talks, Al-Masri said that it was characterized as usual by frankness and an exchange of opinions on all issues of common interest to both countries. He added that the strong and improving bilateral relations were reviewed, pointing out that the two sides will continue their meetings tomorrow.

Notes 'Cordiality' of Talks

NC241414 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1330 GMT 24 Dec 86

[Text] Cairo, 24 Dec (MENA) — Following a round of Egyptian-Jordanian talks this afternoon, Jordanian Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri said that cordiality and openness marked the talks, and that this is also true of his meeting with President Husni Mubarak this morning. On both occasions, Al-Masri said, issues of common concern and bilateral ties were discussed. He added that the talks with Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid will resume tomorrow morning.

For his part, Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid said that the meeting with the Jordanians was very useful. Voicing his pleasure at Al-Masri's visit, 'Abd al-Majid said he had been looking forward to it. He noted that they will meet again tomorrow to discuss issues of concern to both countries.

Talks With Al-Majid Resume

NC250943 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0924 GMT 25 Dec 86

[Text] Cairo, 25 Dec (MENA) — Bilateral talks with Jordan resumed at the Foreign Ministry today. Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, is leading the Egyptian delegation while the Jordanian side is led by Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri.

The conferees discussed issues of interest to both countries, particularly the Arab situation, Middle East developments, the Iraq-Iran war, and progress on peace issues, including an international conference on peace in the Middle East.

Meets Sidqi

NC251338 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 25 Dec 86

[Text] Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi met in his office today with Jordanian Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri. The meeting was also attended by Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister. After the meeting Al-Masri said he and Sidqi had reviewed bilateral relations. He added: We appreciate the advanced level of these relations, and we hope Arab countries will follow this excellent example in their relations with each other.

Asked about the international conference proposed to achieve peace in the Middle East, Al-Masri said: Both Egypt and Jordan insist on holding this conference, regardless of obstacles encountered, and nothing will prevent our continuing efforts in this respect.

Regarding economic relations between Egypt and Jordan, Al-Masri said that the Egyptian-Jordanian (?company) for investment represents the core of economic and technical cooperation between the two countries. He added that the next session of the Egyptian-Jordanian higher committee will be in Amman next April.

Concludes Visit

NC261636 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1540 GMT 26 Dec 86

[Excerpts] Cairo, 26 Dec (MENA) — Jordanian Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri left Cairo for home this afternoon following a 4-day visit to Egypt. The visit included meetings with President Husni Mubarak and other senior Egyptian officials.

In a predeparture statement, Al-Masri described his consultations in Cairo as useful and fruitful and noted that there was complete agreement on all issues discussed. [passage omitted]

Commenting on the seizure of an Iraqi passenger plane and its destruction at 'Ar'ar Airport in Saudi Arabia yesterday, Al-Masri said that his country, like others, rejects and condemns

such acts of terrorism.

Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, was at the airport to see off his Jordanian counterpart. He declared that Egypt denounces all forms of terrorism, as they neither serve nor promote the cause of peace in the Arab world. He also expressed Egypt's regret that innocent lives were lost in this terrorist action.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid pointed out that he will meet tomorrow with Sharif Zayn al-'Abidin al-Hindi, the Sudanese deputy prime minister and foreign minister who is now in Cairo. He explained that they will review current conditions in the Arab world, as well as Egyptian-Sudanese relations and ways of strengthening them in all fields.

Soviet Cooperative Council Official Arrives

NC230945 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0905 GMT 23 Dec 86

[Text] Cairo, 23 Dec (MENA) — Soviet Deputy Prime Minister (Mikhail Petrovich Trunov), chairman of the higher council for cooperatives [titles as received], arrived in Cairo from Moscow this morning for a visit of several days.

The Soviet official will hold talks on bolstering cooperation between Egypt and the Soviet Union in the field of cooperatives.

Concludes Visit, Departs

NC280628 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2315 GMT 27 Dec 86

[Text] Cairo, 27 Dec (MENA) — The Soviet economic cooperatives delegation led by (Mikhail Petrovich Trunov), deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and chairman of the Soviet Cooperatives Council [titles as received], left Cairo today at the end of a 1-week visit. During their stay, the members of the delegation held talks with Dr Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture and food security, which focused on the establishment of joint projects dealing with agro-industrialization in Egypt. A team has been formed to study the implementation of such projects by preparing an addendum to develop the protocol on cooperation signed by the two countries last year. The talks also dealt with programs to provide training on the management that would utilize the expertise of Soviet cooperatives.

Saudi Prince Faysal Concludes 7-Day Visit

NC261905 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1850 GMT 26 Dec 86

[Text] Cairo, 26 Dec (MENA) — Prince Faysal ibn Fahd, chairman of youth affairs in Saudi Arabia and head of the Arab Soccer Federation, left Cairo this afternoon at the end of a 1-week visit to Egypt. He was received by President Mubarak during his stay, and presided over the recent meetings of the Arab Soccer Federation's General Assembly.

Israel's Tamir Arrives in Cairo 28 Dec

NC282022 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1933 GMT 28 Dec 86

[Text] Cairo, 28 Dec (MENA) — Avraham Tamir, Israeli Foreign Ministry director general, arrived in Cairo tonight for a 2-day visit.

Tamir was met at the airport by Counsellor Faruq Ra'fat, Foreign Ministry director of protocol, and Israeli Ambassador Moshe Sason.

Sudan's Al-Hindi, Al-Majid Discuss Relations

NC271409 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1340 GMT 27 Dec 86

[Text] Cairo, 27 Dec (MENA) — Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, today met with Al-Sharif Zayn al-'Abidin al-Hindi, Sudanese deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, who is currently visiting Cairo.

Al-Majid stated that they discussed ways of bolstering and strengthening the distinguished bilateral relations in various fields, so as to reflect the close ties between the two peoples.

Al-Majid added that they also reviewed regional issues, efforts being made to achieve Arab solidarity and give impetus to the peace process in the Middle East, and the coordination of the two countries' positions for the fifth Islamic summit due to open in Kuwait on 26 January.

Al-Hindi Meets Mubarak

NC271753 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1740 GMT 27 Dec 86

[Text] Cairo, 27 Dec (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak met this afternoon with Al-Sharif Zayn al-'Abidin al-Hindi, Sudan's deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs. Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, was also present. Al-Hindi arrived in Cairo on Wednesday for a visit scheduled to last several days.

Al-Hindi Ends Visit, Departs

NC282157 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2147 GMT 28 Dec 86

[Text] Cairo, 28 Dec (MENA) — Al-Sharif Zayn al-'Abidin al-Hindi, Sudan's deputy prime minister and foreign minister, left Cairo tonight after a 5-day visit to Egypt during which he was received by President Husni Mubarak.

During his visit Al-Hindi held discussions with Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and other senior officials on bolstering the fraternal relations between Egypt and Sudan.

Ghali Meets African Presidents, ANC's Tambo

NC251358 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 25 Dec 86

[Text] The presidents of Tanzania, Mozambique, and Botswana, who are participating in the Frontline States' summit in Lusaka, have received Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, who is on an official visit to Zambia. The three heads of state have asked Ghali to convey messages to President Muhammad Husni Mubarak.

Ghali had a number of meetings before concluding his visit to Zambia. He met with the Zambian foreign minister and gave him a message from President Mubarak for President Kaunda. He also discussed cultural cooperation with the Zambian minister for higher education.

Ghali also met with Oliver Tambo, chairman of the African National Congress [ANC]. During this meeting Egypt reaffirmed its support to the ANC and its struggle to end apartheid in Africa. He also conveyed to Tambo a message of support and solidarity from President Mubarak, stressing that Egypt will spare no effort to bring an end to apartheid and to establish democracy and social justice in South Africa.

Kuwaiti Envoy Arrives With Message for Mubarak

NC290923 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0905 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Text] Cairo, 29 Dec (MENA) — 'Abd al-Rahman Salim al-'Atiqi, advisor to Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, amir of Kuwait, arrived in Cairo this morning on an official visit to Egypt. During his stay he will deliver a message to President Husni Mubarak from the amir.

Al-'Atiqi was greeted at Cairo Airport by Dr 'Atif 'Ubayd, minister of cabinet affairs and minister of state for administrative development.

AL-AHRAM Reports Demonstration in Asyut

NC271012 Paris AFP in English 0959 GMT 27 Dec 86

[Text] Cairo, Dec 27 (AFP) — Security forces used teargas and cudgels to disperse Moslem fundamentalist demonstrators at Asyut, in upper Egypt, after Friday prayers, the *AL-AHRAM* newspaper reported on Saturday.

The demonstrators destroyed several cars, using sticks and iron rods, the paper said. Several anti-riot police and demonstrators were injured and an unspecified number arrested, it added.

According to the paper, the trouble began when Moslem fundamentalists occupied the Al-Rahmah Mosque and barred entrance to anyone who did not belong to extremist organisations. They also prevented the imam, appointed by the government, from saying Friday prayers.

When they emerged from the mosque after prayers, the extremists were joined by members of the congregation of the nearby Al-Jam'iyah al-Shar'iyah Mosque, where one person was killed and 48 arrested in similar violent incidents following Friday prayers on October 31.

According to the Interior Ministry, "members of extremist associations tried to seize the microphone from the preacher to spread their fanatical ideas and incite the population to oppose law and order".

They clashed with members of the congregation and there were brawls inside and outside the mosque, which only ended with the intervention of the security forces.

According to *AL-AHRAM*, the imam of Al-Jam'iyah al-Shar'iyah recently informed the authorities that "extremist elements" had prevented him from carrying out his religious duties. The authorities immediately arrested officials of extremist organisations, who, the paper said, had "urged other members of these movements to occupy the mosque on Friday and try to impose their ideas on the faithful."

Asyut, 380 kms (240 miles) south of Cairo, is considered the centre of a radical reform movement.

12 Injured, 124 Arrested

NC291259 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Text] The Cairo newspaper *AL-AKHBAR*, mouthpiece of the opposition Egyptian Socialist Liberal Party, [as heard] reports today that 200 people have been questioned following Friday's clashes in Asyut between police and Muslim fundamentalists. The paper adds that the police opened fire and used tear gas, which touched off a fire in a lumberyard.

The pro-government paper *AL-AHRAM* notes that 124 people were arrested during these incidents and that 122 were students. Four police officers, a soldier, and seven other students were injured.

Two Iranian 'Agents' Behind Hijacking

JN260639 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0555 GMT 26 Dec 86

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Dec (WAKH) — It was announced here tonight that two of the Iranian regime's agents of Lebanese nationality attempted to hijack an Iraqi Airways plane 55 minutes after its takeoff from Saddam International Airport on a flight to Amman this afternoon. A responsible Iraqi source told INA that one of the two criminal agents, who boarded the plane from the airport's transit lounge after their arrival in Baghdad from Yugoslavia, threw a bomb toward the tail end of the plane but it did not explode. The security men in charge of protecting the plane fired at him and killed him instantly.

The source added that the second criminal hurled another bomb at the front passenger cabin. It exploded and the front part of the plane caught fire. The security men hastened to apprehend him but he was killed when the plane's captain attempted a forced landing in the 'Ar'ar area of Saudi Arabia.

The crash of the plane, which was carrying 91 passengers, led to the martyrdom of 59 passengers and the injury of 32 others. The responsible source thanked Saudi Arabia for its fraternal cooperation and for the quick aid it extended to the injured passengers.

Mitterrand, Chirac Send Cables

JN271847 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 27 Dec 86

[Text] President Saddam Husayn has received the following cables from French President Francois Mitterrand and Prime Minister Jacques Chirac in which they deplore the aggression against the Iraqi airways plane:

Respected President Saddam Husayn, I have learned about the incident to which one of the Iraqi Airways plane was exposed. I would like to express to you in my own name and on behalf of the French people my pain and sympathy. Please convey my condolences to the families of the victims.

[Signed] Francois Mitterrand, president of the French Republic

Respected President Saddam Husayn, I would like to express to you my prfound shock at the hijacking of the Iraqi Airways plane and convey to you the sentiments of sympathy and solidarity which I harbor for you personally and for the Iraqi people, especially the families of the victims.

I would like to affirm to you that France, which vehemently denounces all kinds of air piracy, strongly condemns this terrorist act which led to the deaths of dozens of innocent people. While expressing my sorrow, please accept my appreciation and personal greetings.

[Signed] Jacques Chirac, prime minister of France

Hijack Death Toll Updated

JN290735 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Text] Yesterday INA listed the victims of the hijacked Iraqi airliner which crashed while trying to land at 'Ar'ar airport in northern Saudi Arabia on Thursday. According to this list, 67 [as heard] persons were killed in the incident. These included 23 Iraqis, 22 Sudanese, 14 Egyptians, 2 Jordanians, 2 Palestinians, and 2 of the 4 hijackers. The two hijackers killed in the crash were holding Lebanese passports bearing the names of Ilyas George Hanna and Ziyad Hanna al-Asmar. These passports are believed to have been forged.

Saddam Husayn Visits Saudi Arabia, Returns Home

JN281955 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1900 GMT 28 Dec 86

[Excerpts] Leader President Saddam Husayn has visited Saudi Arabia to perform the minor pilgrimage and visit the tombs of Prophet Muhammad and his righteous companions. Upon arrival at Al-Ihsa' airport, the president was accorded a grand official reception with King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy Harams, heading those who received him.

President Saddam Husayn and King Fahd met for 2 hours, after which the president was seen off. Leading those who saw him off were the king accompanied by His Highness 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, crown prince, deputy prime minister, and commander of the Saudi National Guard; Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister and minister of defense and aviation; Prince Muhammad ibn Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, governor of the Eastern Region; the Saudi ministers; and senior military and civilian officials. The president was accompanied by RCC Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim, Culture and Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim, the president's secretary, and the commander of the Air Force and air defense forces. [passage omitted]

President Saddam Husayn arrived at Jeddah airport yesterday. He was received by Prince Sa'ud ibn 'Abd al- Muhsin ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz. After a short period of rest at the royal hall, the president left for his place of residence accompanied by Prince Sa'ud ibn 'Abd al-Muhsin. The president later received Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, Saudi foreign minister, and Prince Turki al-Faysal. The meeting was attended by the president's secretary and the Iraqi ambassador in Saudi Arabia.

The president performed the rites of the minor pilgrimage and visited the tombs of the prophet and his companions. [passage omitted on his reception at Medina] He returned to Baghdad after his 2-day visit to Saudi Arabia. [passage omitted]

The president sent the following cable to his brother King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy Harams, at the conclusion of his visit:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

My brother King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the custodian of the

two holy harams

Greetings. As we leave the territory of the fraternal Kingdom, the territory of love and peace, prophets and glory, we are pleased to affirm that relations between Iraq and Saudi Arabia will be further strengthened and entrenched with time in the service of the two fraternal peoples, the Arab nation, and all Muslims. I reiterate our gratitude for your fraternal hospitality on your good land.

Please accept my good wishes for yourself, your brothers, and the Arab and Muslim people of the Kingdom.

[Signed] Your brother, Saddam Husayn

Communiques, Reports Detail Fighting With Iran

Communique No 2,496

JN241557 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1432 GMT 24 Dec 86

[Communique No 2,496 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 24 December 1986]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. If the Iranian rulers believe that the continuation of the war can prolong the dark era of their rule and achieve their evil intentions toward this homeland or undermine the determination of its sons, we prove to them today and every day through our brave action that the lofty people cannot be defeated, that the challenges strengthen them, and that the battlefields make them more powerful and proud. After all the empty claims of the criminal Shu'ubi clique, the leaders of this clique continued to face failures in every field, set traps for each other, stink from the scandals, and face Iraq's strong blows.

O Citizens, the aircraft of your Air Force continued their daily reaping of the criminal heads, inflicting great losses on your enemies, carrying out your invincible will, and defeating the aggressors. Your rapacious hawks carried out the following heroic operations:

1. At 1015 today, our planes raided the enemy equipment, vehicles, and assembly points in the Sumar area, scoring direct hits on them. Fire and explosions were seen all over the area.

2. At 1025, scores of our planes launched a devastating raid on the enemy vehicles, shelters, and camps in Shushtar, inflicting great losses on the Khomeyniites.

3. At 1036, scores of our planes raided tents, caravans, and barracks in the Dezful area and set them on fire.

4. At 1038, our planes carried out another raid on the enemy concentrations in Shushtar, inflicting more losses on the Khomeyniites.

5. At 1045, scores of our planes launched another raid on the enemy positions in the Sumar area and were able to destroy them.

6. At 1200, our planes raided the enemy positions and vehicles in the (Gan-e-Biz) area and were able to destroy them.

7. At the same time, our planes destroyed a number of the enemy positions and vehicles on the Qasr-e Shirin Sar-e Pol-e Zahab road.

8. At 1252, scores of our planes launched another raid on the enemy troop concentrations and vehicles in the Sumar area, dealing direct blows to them.

9. At 1430, scores of our planes raided the enemy troop concentrations in Sumar, once again inflicting heavy losses on them.

10. At 1431, scores of our planes raided a number of the enemy tents and caravans in the Sumar area and set them ablaze.

11. At 1500, our aircraft launched a raid on the enemy concentrations and vehicles in the Shushtar area, killing the scoundrel Khomeyniites.

12. The scoundrel Khomeyniites imagined that the missiles which their Zionist ally supplied them with could protect them from Iraq's power. They do not know that the Iraqi eagle challenges their air defenses themselves. At 1615, scores of our aircraft attacked the air defenses in Kermanshah [Bakhtaran] and one Hawk-missile battery, destroying them.

13. At the same time, scores of our planes pounced on the oil refinery installations in Kermanshah and set them ablaze.

14. At the same time, scores of our planes raided the power transformation plant in Kermanshah, destroying their targets.

15. At the same time, other scores of our aircraft were bombing an oil truck complex, tearing up the trucks.

After carrying out all these missions, all your brave eagles returned safely and triumphantly with their planes to the homeland in God's care.

This is the Iraqi response to those who acted wrongly. It is evidence that Iraq's hand, which has been extended to peace, also holds the sharp sword of truth and strikes with pride and strength. God grant us success and bless our Air Force — commanders, hawks, officers, and soldiers. We will also witness another day full of victories, God willing.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 24 December 1986

Communique No 2,497

JN241807 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1710 GMT 24 Dec 86

[Communique No 2,497 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 24 December 1986]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. With brave, honest men's determination, our valiant Armed Forces

have continued to inflct more losses on the aggressors. The results of their activities for last night and today are as follows:

1. The number of combat missions carried out by our Air Force to achieve the objectives mentioned in Communique No 2,496 issued this evening reached 196. Our brave hawks also carried out the following combat missions:

a. At 1615 today, our aircraft raided the enemy vehicles on the highway west of Al-Muhammarah [Khorramshahr], scoring destructive hits on them.

b. At 1615, our rapacious hawks raided the Kermanshah [Bakhtaran] oil refinery, scoring devastating hits on their targets while explosions were taking place around them.

c. At the same time, our aircraft raided enemy positions and assembly points in the (Gan-e Biz) area and destroyed their targets.

d. Also at 1615, scores of our planes raided the power transformation plant west of Kermanshah, scoring direct hits on their targets and leaving explosions and columns of smoke billowing from them.

e. At the same time, other scores of our aircraft launched a devastating raid on missile batteries west of Kermanshah.

After carrying out these heroic missions, all our planes returned safely, praised be God.

2. Our units in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah spotted enemy groups and vehicles and dealt accurate blows to them. A number of vehicles were destroyed, 12 scoundrels were killed, and others were wounded. The enemy was seen evacuating its losses. Elsewhere in the same sector, our units destroyed an enemy boat with all its occupants and eight infantry positions, killing and wounding their occupants. Our units also halted the enemy engineering works.

3. Our brave units in the VII Army Corps sector directed their strong fire at a number of enemy vehicles and through their concentrated fire were able to destroy a number of them and inflict losses on the enemy personnel and their equipment. Elsewhere in the same sector, our units spotted an enemy vehicle convoy, fired at it, destroyed three vehicles, and killed their occupants. They also destroyed two ammunition dumps and set enemy positions on fire.

4. Our units in the II Army Corps central sector used their artillery and tanks to shell the enemy units opposite them, inflicting further losses on them. One of our forces in the same sector destroyed one machine gun emplacement and one infantry position and killed their occupants.

5. In the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan, three enemy soldiers were killed, others were wounded, and one single-barreled machine gun was destroyed.

6. Our units in the I special Army Corps, the God Is Great Forces, dealt effective artillery blows to the enemy positions, inflicting losses in personnel and equipment on them.

7. In the I Army Corps northern sector, one enemy soldier was killed and one ammunition dump was set ablaze.

8. To rid themselves of the charlatan Iranian rulers, a number of Iranian civilians sought refuge with our forward units. They were safely evacuated to the rear positions.

9. The criminal enemy shelled the city of Khanaqin with long-range artillery, martyring one child and wounding three other children.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 24 Decemebr 1986

Communique on Iranian Offensive

JN242211 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 2119 GMT 24 Dec 86

[Communique No 2,498 issued by the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command on 24 December 1986]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. O great Iraqi people, O Arabs everywhere, O great heroes of our Armed forces who represent the glory, honor, and vitality of the Arab nation. As we expected them to come, and as we told you about their evil intentions before they carried them out, the evildoers came to the traps of death and destruction. The servants of the Zionists and the agents of imperialism came to gamble with the remnants of their evildoers with the aim of diverting the attention of their people and world public opinion from their ignominious cooperation with Zionism and imperialism. Accursed be their intentions and may God curse them.

O glorious Iraqis, who raise the banners of the great and sublime principles. The Iranian enemy attacked our brave forces in the III and VII Army Corps sectors at 2110 with the aim of occupying the chaste soil of Iraq. Our heroes from the Al-Faruq and Al-Miqdad forces and the forces attached to them were lying in wait for them in order to defend the fatherland and the holy shrines and to defend the honor, security, and future of the Arab nation. With God's help, all the forces in the first thrust which the enemy has sent so far have been destroyed. These evil forces have been wiped out and the units in the first thrust were cut off and isolated from the other forces, thanks to the firepower of the glorious sons of Iraq. With God's help, the agent, hollow heads which dared to attack our country will be burned by the fire which God has prepared for them at the hands of the glorious Iraqis. All the knaves will be buried in the quagmire of defeat without allowing them to realize their evil designs so that Iraq's banner will remain aloft and the heads of the Iraqis remain high with pride.

O glorious Iraqis: Rest assured that victory will be on your side and that our Armed Forces will defeat the knaves of the charlatan as they defeated them in previous battles. God is great. Accursed

be the lowly.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 24 December 1986.

Iranian 'Defeat' Cited

JN251205 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1125 GMT 25 Dec 86

[Communique No. 2,499 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 25 December 1986]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. O great Iraqi people, O sons of our valiant Armed Forces, O glorious Arabs everywhere: In our communique yesterday we announced that the treacherous enemy began its sinister hostile operations under the failed slogan of the year of decisiveness which was raised by the rabble rousers and agents of Zionism.

We also told you that the enemy actions against Iraq's lofty land and the brave sons of Iraq took place in the III and VII Army Corps sectors on the Al-Faw and Basra fronts and, more specifically, on the contact line with the Al-Miqdad Forces and those forces incorporated with them and on the front of the Al-Faruq Forces and the forces incorporated with them. We reassured you at the end of our communique yesterday about the results of the battles.

We are now bringing you the glad tidings of the final and obsolute defeat of the criminal enemy on the front of the heroic III Army Corps, after the heroic Al-Miqdad Forces and the forces incorporated with them waged valiant and splendid defensive battles. These battles were led by Staff Brigadier General 'Abd al-Wahid Shinan Al Ribat and under the supervision and command of Staff Major General Tali' Khalil Ruhayyim al-Duri, commander of the III Army Corps. These great battles resulted in killing thousands of rascals, in capturing a large number of prisoners, and in seizing large quantities of weapons and military equipment.

Amid all this, Iraq's flag fluttered high over our chaste land and the throats of thousands of faithful and brave men shouted in one voice God is great, truth has triumphed, and falsehood has been defeated. Let all honorable Arabs and Muslims shout with the Iraqis: God is great, let the lowly be accursed.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 25 December 1986

3 Iranian Brigades 'Wiped Out'

JN251343 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1313 GMT 25 Dec 86

[Text] The INA team in the southern sector today reported details of the heroism of the Al-Miqdad Forces in the III Army Corps sector in crushing the offensive launched by the forces of the Zionist Iranian regime. In statements to INA, field commanders said that enemy forces were mowed down in no-man's land and failed to gain a foothold on Iraqi soil.

A senior officer in the Al-Miqdad Forces said three enemy brigades were totally wiped out. The brigades are the 57th, 16th, and 21st Brigades, as well as units of the 91st and 95th divisions. He said the combat operations of our forces harvested the rotten heads and paralyzed attacking enemy forces, troop concentrations, and preparations.

The INA team reports that thousands of Iranian dead litter no-man's land and a large number of Iranian prisoners have been evacuated to the rearlines.

A field command said the brave Al-Miqdad Forces completely crushed the aggressors facing their positions while the units fighting with the Al-Miqdad Forces and the artillery units destroyed the greater part of enemy concentrations deep inside enemy territory. He said the forces of the Zionist Iranian enemy attacked our forces on three axes, but were disgracefully defeated thanks to the courage of our fighters who believe in principles and are inspired by their outstanding leader, the struggler President Saddam Husayn.

Iranian Losses Detailed

JN251741 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1705 GMT 25 Dec 86

[Communique No 2,500 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 25 December 1986]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. [passage omitted]

O proud Iraqis. Further to our communique No 2,499 issued today, we declare to you that the battle of last night and today which the enemy wanted to be decisive has rebounded according to your desire and has been decisive against the enemy. Your enemy has sustained in losses thousands of dead and scores of thousands wounded, and he did not and will not achieve any of his objectives.

With the help of God the following enemy forces have been annihilated:

1. The 5th Division, Khomeyni [Islamic Revolution] Guards.

2. The 43d Division, Khomeyni Guards.

3. The 14th Division, Khomeyni Guards.

4. the 48th Division, Khomeyni Guards.

5. The 21st Brigade, Khomeyni Guards.

6. The 57th Brigade, Khomeyni Guards.

7. The 16th Brigade, Khomeyni Guards.

8. A company of frogmen, Khomeyni Guards.

The fighters of the heroic VII Army Corps and the fighters of the III Army Corps, commanders, officers, and men of the

Al-Faruq and Al-Miqdad forces and the formations incorporated with them took part in the battle. The infantry, the artillery, the armor, the special forces, the commandos, and the engineering corps fought well and proved that they are good sons of the Iraqi people.

As for your Air Force, true to form in the battles of heroism and destiny, it has harvested a great many Khomeyniite heads in 361 combat missions. The helicopter pilots were a sword brandished against the enemies. They carried out 110 combat missions. All our bomber aircraft, fighter aircraft, and helicopters have returned safely to base, praise be to God.

Blessed be your victory. You and your homeland are to be congratulated. You can be proud of your sons. Shame and disgrace to your enemies. May victory always be yours. Long live our great leader, who inspires us with courage, determination, and loyalty, and our hope for a happier future — President Saddam Husayn, may God protect him. May you always be joyful, o sons of this beloved homeland.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 25 December 1986

Iranians on Waterway 'Wiped Out'

JN260653 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0607 GMT 26 Dec 86

[Iraqi military spokesman's statement dated 26 December 1986]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. We have received the following from the VII Army Corps:

The heroes of the Corps in the Al-Faruq Forces' sector and the formations supporting them have completely wiped out the enemy forces which gained a foothold on Iraqi territory on the western bank of the Shatt al-'Arab waterway during their treacherous offensive on the night of 24 December and have completely purged Iraqi territory. The only presence the rogues have on our land is the piles of their dead bodies and the large numbers of their prisoners, while our valiant forces continue to destroy enemy remnants on Umm al-Rasas Island, situated on the Shatt al-'Arab, where the enemy gained a foothold on the night of 24 December. Preliminary reports confirm the enemy is experiencing very low morale while our forces are enjoying very high morale, which befits them after having destroyed the enemy forces in the passageways linking Umm al-Rasas Island to (Umm al-Jibal) Island. Our forces are pursuing the enemy to destroy them and we are waiting for the VII Army Corps to bring us glad tidings of victory on this island soon, God willing. God is great. Ignominy to the evil clique.

[Dated] 26 December 1986

Loss of 2 Aircraft Denied

JN260700 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0525 GMT 26 Dec 86

[Text) Baghdad, 25 Dec (WAKH) — Iraq has denied Iranian claims that two Iraqi aircraft were downed and that a warship was destroyed in Arab Gulf waters today. In a statement to INA tonight, a military spokesman dismissed these claims as sheer lies and said all the Iraqi warplanes carried out their duties and returned safely to base.

Iranians 'Defeated' on Island

JN260950 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0905 GMT 26 Dec 86

[Communique No 2,501 issued by the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command on 26 December 1986]

[Excerpt][Passage omitted] O Iraqis, the VII Army Corps heroes are this time bringing you the glad news of the final, blessed result of the great battle between our forces and the enemy after 2 days of fighting. Their forces, O Iraqis, were defeated on Umm al-Rasas Island and the Iraqi flag, whose mast is embraced by the Iraq's hearts, before being taken in their hands, and by the hearts of all honorable Arabs, flutters high on the island. Your great action is blessed by Almighty God and the souls of all of our pure forefathers and righteous martyrs.

The VII Army Corps heroes, led by Staff Lieutenant General Mahir 'Abd al-Rashid on the Al-Faruq Forces front and the forces incorporated with them under the command of Staff Brigadier General Qays Muhammad 'Ali and the Sa'd Forces and the forces incorporated with them under the command of Staff Brigadier General Nawfal Isma'il fought heroically. The battles waged on the VII and III Army Corps fronts were splendid on the level of all fighters — commanders and other ranks in the various spheres of command, organization, and support. Efforts were splendidly coordinated on the level of all forces and wepaons used.

Thus, the charlatans' slogan for this year was shattered and their sinister slogan will be shattered on all warfronts whenever they embark on aggression in the remaining part of their Iranian year which ends in March 1987, God willing, thanks to the determination, sacrifices, and vigilance of the zealous ones.

Praised be God for this outcome. God is great. Accursed be the lowly.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 26 December 1986

Reporters Invited To Front

JN261043 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1021 GMT 26 Dec 86

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Dec (INA) — The Iraqi Culture and Information Ministry has invited the correspondents of Arab and foreign newspapers, magazines, news agencies, and television networks to report to the Ministry building this afternoon where they will leave for the battlefronts to become acquainted with the Iraqi forces' victories in the III and VII Army Corps sectors.

Air Force Attacks Cited

JN261741 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic
1705 GMT 26 Dec 86

[Communique No 2,502 issued by the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command on 26 December 1986]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our Armed Forces and the masses of the people have celebrated the great victory achieved by the comrades, the fighters of the VII and III Army Corps, in belief and in arms. Our fighters confirm their complete readiness to crush any adventure on which the agents of Zionism may embark and to make it indeed harsher and more terrible for the enemy than previous adventures. The following is a roundup of our activities for last night and today:

1. Our heroic Air Force played a part in every honor achieved and made a very important contribution to every victory. Our daring pilots continued to shatter the remnants and concentrations of the aggressors for the second consecutive day, providing strong support for the forces of the III and VII Army Corps as they destroyed the aggression. Our Air Force carried out 211 combat missions today. Our aircraft hit a large maritime target near the Iranian coast and dealt a destructive blow to the Hamid camp and its railway station, setting them on fire. All of our aircraft returned safely to base, praise be to God. Glory to our Air Force, its command, pilots, officers, and men.

2. The bold helicopter pilots of the Army's airborne division continue to forge heroic acts in every battle. For the second consecutive day they continued to attack enemy equipment, vehicles, weapons, and troop concentrations, inflicting heavy losses on them and providing magnificent support for our valiant forces. They carried out 73 combat missions after which the knights of the skies returned safely to base with their helicopters, praise be to God. May God bless the daring Army's airborne force, its command, pilots, officers, and men.

3. In a courageous combat mission, a unit of our valiant forces in the II Army Corps central sector killed four enemy personnel, captured a number of them, and seized three (GC) rifles.

Our units in the same sector engaged enemy troops and positions, inflicting further losses on them.

4. In order to rid themselves of the clique of charlatans and tyrants, a number of Iranian military personnel sought refuge with our frontline units on the battlefront. They were safely evacuated to the rear lines.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 26 December 1986

Commander Holds News Conference

JN270617 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic
1735 GMT 26 Dec 86

[News conference held by Lieutenant General Mahir 'Abd al-Rashid, commander of the VII Army Corps, "In an advanced position of the operations theater" attended by Iraqi and foreign correspondents on 26 December -- recorded]

[Text] I reiterate my welcome to the Arab and foreign correspondents and the brothers from our beloved Iraq in the VII Army Corps sector. The VII Army Corps protects an important port in our great country which is the target of this enemy and is also the target of another enemy who is more treacherous for reasons that are well-known and tangible. I hope I will be successful in giving a picture — honestly and within the limits of military security and the field security of the VII Army Corps — of the fighting that took place in the past 2 days (?and nights). The brother colleagues, like others, knew and expected an action to take place in one sector or another of the front in view of the fact that our enemy has been making statements and threats for some time, and in light of what his past declarations that the current year will be a decisive year, that he massed the necessary troops, and that he will do what he will do. All this is (?known) to everyone, not only to you and to us. The Iraqi side could not but prepare, and officials in the Ministry of Defense and outside have said (?so).

Therefore, we are prepared for the contest and we are prepared to do what must be done in foiling the enemy's intentions, threats, ambitions, and claims of the alleged decisive year. The prediction of Iraqi intelligence in logistics and in the field was that the entire — or part of — the VII Army Corps would (?witness) enemy aggression in the alleged decisive year of our treacherous enemy. [words indistinct] It was also predicted that enemy action was imminent, that enemy action would be concentrated on this or that part of the corps sector, that it could also include an adjacent corps or another corps, and that it could be a large-scale action in one sector or another. That is a matter that is determined and was determined by the intelligence service as I have said, and is determined by the intentions, statements, and also the stupidity of the enemy through his arrogance and demagoguery in (?attacking) targets, be they cities or other targets, in our great country. [passage indistinct]

Early on the night of 24-25 December the enemy attacked, beliving he would succeed in reaching important positions that would bring him closer to Basra, Iraq's steadfast port, or to other positions that are important for military or even nonmilitary actions to fulfill his evil intentions because he dreams of reaching that spot or axis in southern Iraq. I belive I am not authorized — nor is it desirable — to say more about the intentions of our treacherous enemy. As I have said, he was dreaming of reaching important positions or that he would reach axes and areas in the corps operations theater and penetrate its formations on the divisions' front. Fighting raged during that blessed night, the red night as the fighters of the corps call it, [words indistinct]. Our measures were known and expected, and were supposed to be known to the enemy because it was not the first battle in which he confronted us. It was not the first battle in which we confronted and defeated the enemy either. We have other command-

ers in the Armed Forces who have accustomed the enemy to such actions. The corps measures were swift and the work of the [words indistinct] were active and continuous. [words indistinct] I would not be exaggerating when I say that the spirit of cooperation among the divisions that fought and the other divisions surpassed what I have experienced in the III Army Corps in the past years and in the I Army Corps prior to that.

What does the enemy expect when there is a confrontation? We eliminated many footholds during that night and completed the action the following day. Many formations destroyed the enemy waves that attacked us from the water like frogmen or through infantry transported by various boats. What is important and satisfying is that despite the footholds or the small footholds within the defenses and formations achieved by the enemy, the enemy was unable throughout the many formations — and I challenge him — to capture the position of a (?full) regiment. He was besieged within the Umm al-Rasas island during fighting for 2 days and nights. Thus, on the following day the brigades that held the ground were joined by the units of the counteroffensive, armored units, infantry, and special forces - supported by other heroic forces, artillery, other forces, and even other services. Together with the general support of the Iraqi Air Force, which is known for its effectiveness and action, and the Army airborne force, which has a good record in the bright pages of our Armed Forces, we were able to complete the destruction of our enemy and eliminate his presence from all the footholds he had gained from the Abu (Fulus) River, south of the Abu (al-Khasib) on the Shatt al-'Arab waterway which is called (Al-Dajjaniyah), through areas in Shatt al-'Arab and islands in Shatt al-'Arab until the (Shima) area opposite the Hajj (Sambukh) island on the enemy side. [passage indistinct]

However, as I have said the enemy did not succeed in holding any foothold during the first night or the following day of the fighting.

Many of our units ended their battles without any help and without any reserve units to support them, attacking enemy positions in which they gained a foothold. Other units needed [word indistinct]. The battles were decided on the 3d day of the battle. [words indistinct] Why have we delayed the settling of the situation until this time while our people and our historic leadership are accustomed to seeing us decide our action or battles in less time than this? [words indistinct]

It really happened in favor of the military action. It was also opportunity during which many things took place. We have inflicted massive losses on the enemy that are important to us. We inflicted massive losses on the enemy's frogmen. I believe you saw the frogmen's equipment [words indistinct] the United States of America. [passage indistinct] We inflicted losses on the enemy of this type of fighter and, as I have said, mainly Khomeyni guards. You saw some of the POW's. [words indistinct] Our losses are small, praise be to God. When I say small I say it without any exaggeration like any military commander or fighter on the battlefield because facts remain facts as confirmed by previous occasions and battles. There are satellites and many other devices in countries that can confirm the losses on both sides.

What has been achieved thus far and in light of the [words indistinct] of POW's confirm that the enemy attacked with the first strike using selected forces, manily from the Khomeyni guards lead and the misled and wretched ones [words indistinct].

Most of their POW's, their dead, and their attacking forces are Khomeyni guards on which the disappointed Iranian regime depend and which constitute the best volunteers and regular forces, as is well known and you know this.

The enemy attacked with six divisions and six independent brigades. This means they attacked with eight divisions and other waves, some of which managed to arrive and participate in the fighting and some of which did not attempt to come or had better luck and did not take part in the fighting as was the case with the hostile 21st division which arrived this morning to participate. The position of this division was identified and specified. It came under the mercy of the Iraqi Air Force and the artillery of the VII and VIII Army Corps, and had its share from the artillery of at least four Iraqi divisions which poured their fire on the enemy along with the Iraqi Air Force. We say some of those who did not reach the battlefield or participate in the fighting were fortunate. Like you, we see the reality of our fighters, officers, and otehr ranks in front of you. If the opportunity arises you will see them in their frontline positions and in their fighting positions. You will see the smiling face of the Iraqi soldier as you saw it in previous broadcasts, visits, and battles. However, I can confidently say that you will see them in a different mood. I think from the nature of your work you will appreciate and know this. Thus, the battle ended with these results and our disappointed enemy has emerged with this outcome in the year of decisiveness which the enemy promised and made such a clamor about. This is all I have to say. I leave you with my colleague Abu Mas'ab to answer all your questions. Thank you. [Questions and answer session not broadcast]

Communique on Iranian Losses

JN271805 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 27 Dec 86

[Communique No 2,503 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 27 December 1986]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The heroic VII Army Corps is violently striking at the heads of the enemy knaves, agents of Zionism, forcing them to pay a high price for their aggression and pushing their remnants to hell, their final abode. The following is a roundup of enemy losses from 24 to 26 December 1986 which were counted and ascertained by competent parties:

A. The killing of 12,000 men and the destruction of 124 boats and 107 vehicles of various types on the eastern bank of the Shatt al-'Arab waterway in front of our forces.

B. The killing of 9,400 men and the destruction of 211 boats on the Shatt al-'Arab waters before actual contact with the enemy.

C. The killing of 10,944 men and the destruction of 713 boats in front of the Al-faruq and Sa'd forces.

Thus, total enemy losses are: 32,344 dead, 1,048 boats and 107

vehicles of various types destroyed, and hundreds taken as prisoners. We have also ascertained from various sources that the enemy casualties on enemy territory were very grave.

God bless the men of the heroic VII Army Corps — commanders, officers, and other ranks. Praise be to God. Let the banner of great Iraq remain high. Long live the people, long live the leader, long live the Army. We thank God, the lord of mankind.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 27 December 1986

Further Battles Detailed

JN271830 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic
1705 GMT 27 Dec 86

[Communique No 2,504 issued by the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command on 27 December 1986]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our victorious forces continued to inflict further losses on the aggressors. The results of the activities for last night and today are as follows:

1. Several groups of enemy personnel tried to approach our positions in the heroic III Army Corps sector, but our brave soldiers confronted them with torrential fire, killing approximately 200 soldiers, wounding a large number, and capturing many others. The remnants of the Iranian soldiers fled chased by the fire of our heroic artillery. Our units in the same sector also used various types of weapons to attack the enemy concentrations, inflicting the following losses on them:

A. Destroying 10 boats carrying personnel.

B. Destroying and damaging several vehicles, some of which carried personnel.

C. Destroying two tanks and several enemy positions. God bless the loyal fighters, the soldiers of the hero III Army Corps.

2. One of our hero formations in the II Army Corps central sector observed a group of enemy personnel opposite our positions in that sector. The group was immediately fired on with artillery. Our brave soldiers managed to either kill or wound more than 100 scoundrel Khomeyniite soldiers. The remnants of these groups fled. In other positions of the same sector, several observation posts and ammunition depots were destroyed. God bless the soldiers of the hero II Army Corps.

3. The units of the hero VII Army Corps dealt severe blows to the enemy positions opposite them, scoring accurate blows and inflicting important losses on enemy personnel. Cries for help were heard from the scoundrels and the enemy was seen evacuating its losses. God bless the soldiers of the hero VII Army Corps.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 27 December 1986

Communique No 2,505

JN281732 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic
1700 GMT 28 Dec 86

[Communique No 2,505 issued by the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command on 28 December 1986]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our victorious forces continued to inflict further losses on the enemy, with God's help. The following are the overall activities for last night and today:

1. In continuation of the victories of our brave Armed Forces, our hero Air Force continued to attack enemy supplies dealing an accurate, effective blow against a large maritime target near the Iranian coast at 1235 today. Afterwords, our planes safely returned to base in God's care.

2. Our brave men in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah continued their heroic operations against the scoundrel Khomeyniites inflicting additional losses on them. Our men destroyed two tanks and three boats, captured one boat, and destroyed two enemy vehicles and a number of ammunition depots.

3. Our victorious forces on the VII Army Corps front continued to strike at enemy positions opposite them with all types of weapons, inflicting further losses on them. In other areas two boats, one of them carrying ammunition, were destroyed; four ammunition depots were burned; and five scoundrels were killed.

4. Our units in the II Army Corps central sector dealt effective blows to the enemy units with artillery, tanks, and mortars, destroying a number of infantry positions and inflicting human and equipment losses on the enemy.

5. Six enemy personnel were killed in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan.

6. The spiteful Khomeyniite clique shelled residential areas in Basra with long-rang artillery, wounding five civilians.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 28 December 1986

Iranian Losses Summed Up

JN281839 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic
1746 GMT 28 Dec 86

[Communique No 2,506 issued by the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command on 28 December 1986]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The III Army Corps, which is known for its great deeds, has dealt blows to the enemies with Iraq's vigor and thrown them and their evil intentions into hell. During the great harvest operation by the Al-Qadisiyah forces in which the Al-Miqdad forces played a decisive and principal role, our brave fighters managed to either kill or wound a very large number of enemy personnel and to

capture and destroy large quantities of equipment and weapons as follows:

1. The killing or wounding of 50,380 enemy personnel, including groups of frogmen sent by the enemy at the beginning of its aggression.

2. The destruction of 275 mortars.

3. The destruction of 32 guns of various types.

4. The destruction of 1,016 boats of various types.

5. The destruction of 227 spg-9 guns and 1 106-mm gun.

6. The destruction of 18,437 parts of various weapons.

7. The destruction of 35 shovels [preceding word in English].

8. The destruction of 21 bulldozers.

9. The destruction of 422 vehicles of various types.

10. The destruction of eight tanks.

11. In addition to previous losses, numbers of enemy personnel were either killed or wounded on enemy territory, in their positions, in their artillery emplacements, and on their supply lines. Two commanders of the charlatan Khomeyniite guards were killed and a large number of enemy personnel were captured and evacuated to the rear.

God bless the men of the hero III Army Corps — command, officers, and soldiers. Let the banner of glorious Iraq be proud. Long live the people. Long live the leader. Long live the Army. We thank god.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 28 December 1986

Correction to Ambassador's Interview on Arms Deal

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Ambassador Views Impact of U.S. Arms Shipments," published in the 17 December Middle East & Africa *Daily Report*, page E 1, right column, paragraph five, lines two and three:
...not just because of Iran's "terrorist" reputation, because... (changing "Iraq's" to "Iran's")

Egyptian President Mubarak Arrives in Aqaba

JN281119 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 28 Dec 86

[Text] Aqaba — Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and his wife arrived in Aqaba today on a 2-day visit to Jordan during which he will hold talks with His Majesty King Husayn on the overall situation in the Arab region, current international issues, and bilateral relations. King Husayn and Queen Nur welcomed President Mubarak and his wife upon arrival at Aqaba Airport. Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i, Royal Hashemite Court Chief Marwan al-Qasim, Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri, senior officials in Aqaba, and the Egyptian ambassador in Amman also welcomed the guests.

Accompanying President Mubarak is a delegation including Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Dr Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the president's office for political affairs. Jordanian Ambassador in Cairo Husayn Hamami also arrived on the same plane.

Husayn Hosts Working Lunch

NC281619 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1540 GMT 28 Dec 86

[Text] Aqaba, 28 Dec (MENA) — Discussions between President Husni Mubarak and Jordan's King Husayn resumed during a working luncheon the Jordanian monarch hosted today for President Mubarak and his delegation. The discussions had begun immediately on President Mubarak's arrival in Aqaba earlier today.

Dr Mamduh al-Biltaji, head of the Egyptian Public Information Authority and member of the delegation accompanying President Mubarak, said President Mubarak and the Jordanian monarch reviewed and studied in depth developments in the Middle East question, prospects for a settlement, and the possibilities of achieving a just peace in the area in the light of the stands of various regional and international parties.

Dr Al-Biltaji added that the two Arab leaders exchanged information and views on the results of recent exchanges both men have held with concerned Arab and international parties interested in facilitating the Middle East peace process.

The discussions were attended on the Egyptian side by Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Dr Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and presidential adviser for political affairs; Dr Mamduh al-Biltaji, head of the Public Information Authority; Dr Mustafa al-Faqi, the president's secretary for information; and Egyptian Ambassador in Amman Ihab Wahbah.

The Jordanian side was represented by Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i; Royal Court chief Marwan al-Qasim; Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri; and Jordanian Ambassador in Cairo Husayn Hamami.

Talks 'Amicable, Constructive'

NC281637 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1605 GMT 28 Dec 86

[Text] Aqaba, 28 Dec (MENA) — Dr Mamduh al-Biltaji, head of the Egyptian Public Information Authority and member of the delegation accompanying President Husni Mubarak to Jordan, has announced that the Egyptian-Jordanian talks dealt with the situation and changes in the Arab and Islamic world prior to the Islamic summit conference in Kuwait at the end of January. The talks, Dr al-Biltaji added, also touched on developments in the Iraq-Iran war.

In a statement to MENA, Dr al-Biltaji noted that the Egyptian-Jordanian exchanges were held in an amicable and constructive atmosphere in light of the eagerness of the Egyptian and Jordanian leadership to deepen ties, coordination, and consultations between the two countries to serve the objectives and interests of the Arab and Islamic peoples, as well as just peace in the Middle East.

A second round of talks between the Egyptian and Jordanian sides is expected this evening.

Mubarak Leaves Aqaba 29 Dec

JN291148 Amman Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Text] Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and his wife left Aqaba at noon today at the conclusion of his 2-day visit to Jordan. President Mubarak held talks with His Majesty King Husayn on the current Arab situation and international issues of mutual concern as well as bilateral relations.

His Majesty King Husayn and Her Majesty Queen Nur bade farewell to the Egyptian president and his wife at Aqaba Airport.

Al-Masri Returns From Egypt, Comments on Talks

JN262003 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 26 Dec 86

[Text] Amman — Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri returned to Amman from Cairo this evening following a 3-day visit to Egypt during which he met with President Husni Mubarak and People's Assembly speaker Dr Rif'at al-Mahjub. He also held talks with Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi and Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, on relations between the two countries and ways to bolster and promote them in various fields, in addition to current Arab and international issues and the two countries' efforts to remove obstacles to holding aninternational peace conference. The talks also dealt with bilateral coordination on the issues to be raised at the Islamic summit conference in Kuwait next month.

In a statement to the *Jordanian News Agency*, Al-Masri described his talks with the officials in Egypt as disstinguished and useful. He said the Jordanian and Egyptian sides had a complete agreement on all issues discussed and that the two countries' officials assessed matters in an objective manner. He reiterated his pride in the level of the relationship between the

two countries. He said: I hope the Arab countries will follow Egypt and Jordan on the level of bilateral relations.

Al-Masri said that Jordan's relationship with the PLO remains the same. We are brothers of the Palestinians, our fate is the same, and we are linked to them by distinguished relations, he said. He added: We still recognize the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Al-Masri asserted that among Jordan's top priorities is to support the kinfolk in the occupeid Arab territories. In his statements, the minister noted Jordan's consistent stand supporting fraternal Iraq in its just war with Iran. He said: Our stand on this war is known, and our support for the brothers in fraternal Iraq is continuing for the sake of the legitimate defense of their homeland's soil. He added: By doing so, we proceed from the principle of Arab fraternity and from the fact that Iraq constitutes the Arab homeland's eastern flank.

The minister condemned the attempt to hijack an Iraqi plane, which resulted in the loss of innocent people. He said: We in Jordan are against any terrorist operations of this type and condemn such acts.

Iraqi President Telephones King Husayn

JN261900 Amman Television Service in Arabic
1800 GMT 26 Dec 86

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received a telephone call from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn this morning reassuring the king that the brave Iraqi forces defeated the Iranian aggression and crushed it completely, that the island of Umm al-Rasas was also regained, and that the Iraqi people are joining their brothers on the front in celebrating the victory.

In his telephone call with King Husayn, President Saddam asserted that the Iraqi forces will remain an impregnable wall protecting the land of Iraq and the Arab nation from any aggression and that these forces will continue to achieve successive victories until a complete victory is realized, God willing.

King Husayn said he and the Jordanian people join President Saddam Husayn and the Iraqi people, headed by their brave Armed Forces, in the joy of victory. He asked God to support the resolve of the fighters defending their Arab nation and to grant them a decisive victory in repulsing any aggression against the fraternal Iraqi land. The king reaffirmed Jordan's denunciation of the Iranian aggression on fraternal Iraq. He also recalled that this aggression launched by the Tehran rulers using Israeli weapons calls on the Arab nation to close its ranks in the face of its enemies.

Surviving Passengers Describe Iraqi Plane Hijack

JN261009 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
26 Dec 86 pp 1, 17

[By Ahmad Shakir]]

[Excerpts] Amman — *Al-Dustur* has obtained the complete story of the catastrophe of the Iraqi airliner that crashed in northern Saudi Arabia yesterday following its hijacking while on a regular flight between Amman and Baghdad. The three Jordanian survivors, who were welcomed by Prince 'Abdallah ibn al-Husayn, have made statements to *Al-Dustur*. [passage omitted]

Sulayman 'Arar spoke about the painful incident and said: At 1045 Amman time, or 1145 Baghdad time yesterday, an Iraqi Airways Boeing 737 took off on regular Flight 163 to Amman. My brother Khalid and I were sitting in first class with five or six other passengers, including an Iraqi ambassador. Approximately 1 hour after the plane took off, around 1200 Amman time, I saw a young man rush toward the first class compartment, enter the cockpit, and throw a hand grenade he had been holding in his hand while opening fire with a weapon in his other hand. The Iraqi guards opened fire on him, killing him in front of us.

While this was taking place, we also heard gunfire coming from tourist class as well as the shouts of passengers. As a result of the explosion, black smoke covered the first class compartment while passengers tried to put out the fire from the explosion with their coats. We nearly suffocated from the black smoke and tried to use the oxygen masks, which failed to function. Most probably, they were impaired by the explosion. The plane began to lose altitude, but the crew remained calm and succeeded in putting the plane on automatic pilot.

The exchange of fire lasted some 20 minutes until we saw the runway of 'Ar'ar Airport, which is in the northern part of Saudi Arabia. The side windows were shattered and we began to breathe. The plane then roughly landed about 50 meters from the runway. Upon landing, the plane turned over on its left side and I could see the ground above my head. At the moment of landing, the tail of the plane as well as the tourist class section were separated from the rest of the plane. We, the first class passengers, began rushing toward the emergency door, which was opened by the crew. I was the sixth passenger to leave the plane and my brother Khalid was the seventh. Five others preceded us. We went down the emergency chute and ran quickly away from the plane, which was on fire.

Sulayman 'Arar added: After we ran about 30 meters away from the plane, it exploded and was engulfed in flames. While stepping down from the plane, I saw that many of the plane's seats as well as bodies of passengers were scattered around.

'Arar said: 'Ar'ar Airport officials arrived at the scene no longer than 5 minutes after this. Fire engines started to put out the fire and ambulances began to evacuate victims. 'Ar'ar citizens also arrived at the scene of the crash and helped in taking

the dead and wounded to 'Ar'ar hospital, which is 20 km from the airport. We did not allow ourselves to be examined so the wounded and serious cases could be treated first. Ranking Saudi officials began to arrive at the hospital, and citizens began to donate blood. [Passage omitted]

In another account by another passenger, the hijackers tried to take control of the plane when it entered Saudi airspace and the plane's Iraqi guards foiled their attempt. One of the hijackers threw a grenade that exploded while the plane was still in the air, and hand-to-hand fighting took place between the Iraqi guards and the hijackers. While this was taking place, the pilot was doing his best to land at the nearest airport, which in this case was 'Ar'ar Airport. The pilot succeeded in making a forced landing 800 meters from the runway. The plane hit the ground, and this seems to have detonated other bombs, which destroyed the major part of the plane and killed all passengers in this part of the plane, while passengers in the front escaped. [Passage omitted]

'Revolutionary Action' Claims Iraqi Plane Attack

NC251915 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1903 GMT 25 Dec 86

[Excerpts] An Iraqi passenger aircraft coming from Baghdad was hijacked today as it was about to land at Amman Airport. The hijackers exploded a hand grenade inside the plane while it was airborne, killing 59 passengers and wounding another 20. Twenty-two of those aboard escaped unhurt. The plane was forced to land at 'Ar'ar Airport in northern Saudi Arabia. [passage omitted]

An unidentified person contacted the NNA a few minutes ago and said that the Revolutionary Action Organization [Munazzamat al-'Amal al-Thawri] was claiming responsibility for the blast. The caller promised to give us additional details.

Release of Detainees Demanded

NC261955 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1905 GMT 26 Dec 86

[Text] We have just received the following: An unidentified individual has telephoned the NNA, and claimed to be speaking on behalf of the Revolutionary Action Organization. He announced that the group takes full responsibility for the blast aboard the Iraqi plane. In addition, he warned Baghdad that if three of the organization's members currently detained in Iraq are not freed within 48 hours, Iraqi interests and embassies around the world will be hit. The captives are: Muhammad al-Tharthar, Hasan 'Alawiyah, and 'Ali Jabir.

The spokesman for Revolutionary Action stressed that Iraq must meet the organization's demands or bear the responsibility for the consequences. He asserted that no members of the group were aboard the aircraft. He then said that the plane had been booby-trapped while it was still on the ground at the airport. The detonation of the explosive charge that had been placed at the front of the aircraft forced the pilot to land. The caller noted that Iraqi officials, as well as a senior Jordanian official and a number of Saudi citizens were on the plane, but there were no Lebanese aboard.

Islamic Jihad Claims Attack

NC260617 Paris AFP in English 0609 GMT 26 Dec 86

[Excerpt] Beirut, Dec 26 (AFP) — A caller claiming to speak for the Islamic Jihad organisation claimed the hijacking of an Iraqi plane which crashed in Saudi Arabia Thursday, killing at least 59 people.

In a telephone call to a Western news agency, the man said the fundamentalist Muslim group had carried out the hijacking with the Al-Da'wah party, a fundamentalist Shi'ite group opposed to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. The caller asked the French Government to stop financial and military support for Iraq in the Gulf war with Iran. [passage omitted]

Islamic Jihad Role Denied

HK270010 Hong Kong AFP in English
0006 GMT 27 Dec 86

[Text] Beirut, Dec 27 (AFP) — A group claiming responsibility for hijacking an Iraqi airliner on Thursday accused the Saudi Air Force Friday night of forcing down the plane.

Then it was attacked by Saudi soldiers at nightfall, which "provoked a massacre on board," according to this new version of the catastrophe at 'Ar'ar Airport in northern Saudi Arabia in which 62 people died, 32 were injured and 13 were unhurt.

The accusation was made by the Iraqi branch of the Islamic Revolutionary Movement (IRM) in a message to a western news agency here. The message claimed that the airliner was forced down after "our Mujahideen (...) neutralized the security guards" on the craft after it took off from Baghdad.

The IRM threatened Saudi Arabia with reprisals earlier Friday if it handed over the hijackers to Iraq.

Responsibility for the hijacking was claimed earlier by a hitherto-unknown Revolutionary Action Organization. It is unclear if the RAO and IRM are two different organizations with similar names, or a single group with two different versions of its name. The sky-jacking was also claimed in a message purporting to come from the pro-Iranian Islamic Jihad (Holy War) organization. But a phone call purporting to come from Islamic Jihad Friday night denied that group was involved.

Iraq blamed the deaths on "Iranian agents carrying lebanese passports". But Iran, which is at war with Iraq, denied responsibility.

Survivors said two to four hijackers threw two grenades while exchanging shots with security guards, and that the damaged plane crashed short of the runway. The craft was under fire from airport security guards as it crashed and then exploded in flames, said former Jordanian Deputy Prime Minister Sulayman 'Arar, who was among the passengers who escaped.

The IRM message said the purpose of the hijacking was to draw world attention to "repression by the Iraqi regime, to make (Iraqi president) Saddam Husayn tremble (...) and to get our hands on Sulayman Arar."

Group Threatens Saudis

NC261132 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1115 GMT 26 Dec 86

[Text] An organization calling itself the Revolutionary Islamic Movement-The Iraqi Wing [Al-Harakah al-Islamiyah al-Thawriyah-al-Janah al-'Iraqi] issued a statement in Beirut today in which it threatened retaliation against Saudi authorities if they hand over the hijackers of the Iraqi airliner. The organization said it holds the Saudi authorities responsible for the fate of the hijackers. In its handwritten statement, which was conveyed to a Western news agency in West Beirut, the organization threatened violence if the hijackers are handed over.

Hostage Released Into Custody of French Embassy

NC241803 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 24 Dec 86

[Excerpts] Aurel Cornea, an sound engineer for the French television network Antenne-2, was released at 1800 today. Cornea and three other Antenne-2 crew members had been kidnapped on 8 March 1986. [passage omitted]

The Organization of Revolutionary Justice issued a statement in which it said that it had released the French hostage at 1700 in front of the Beau Rivage Hotel. However, an AFP report stated that Aurel Cornea had been released into the custody of the French military attache in Lebanon at 1800 and escorted to the embassy.

Libyan Diplomat Killed by Gunfire in Al-Biqa'

NC251740 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1725 GMT 25 Dec 86

[Text] A diplomatic vehicle belonging to the Libyan Embassy in Damascus came under fire today in Ta'nayil [in Al-Biqa']. Two people were inside the car, which bears diplomatic license plate 123. One of them, Misbah Muhammad Gharibi, was killed, while the other, Muhammad Abu Bakr Dahmani, was wounded.

Libya Confirms Diplomat's Death

NC251902 Paris AFP in English 1852 GMT 25 Dec 86

[Excerpts] Shtawrah, Lebanon, Dec 25 (AFP) — A Libyan diplomat posted in Damascus was assassinated and another seriously wounded Thursday in the Syrian controlled Al-Biqa' Valley in Lebanon, correspondents in the region reported. Libya's counsellor at its Damascus Embassy, Misbah Muhammad Gharibi was killed instantly as a hail of automatic weaponfire from a Mercedes car pierced the diplomats' BMW automobile, near the village of Ta'nayil, some 45 kilometers (30 miles) east of Beirut on the road to Damascus, the correspondents said. [passage omitted]

There was no immediate claim for the attack. [passage omitted]

In Damascus, the Libyan Embassy confirmed the killing of the diplomat.

"The financial charge d'affaires of the Libyan People's Bureau at Damascus was killed instantly, when an armed man in a Mercedes opened fire in his direction in the Shtawrah area, while the diplomat was returning by car to Syria," charge d'affaires 'Abd al-Qadir al-Warfali said. He gave no other details except that the diplomat — whose identity he did not reveal — was not hit. "We are awaiting the return of this person to get fuller details," he added.

This contradicted reports by correspondents at Shtawrah that a second diplomat, Muhammad Abu Bakr Dahmani, was seriously wounded in the attack.

Amal Blamed for Libyan's Death

NC260646 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 26 Dec 86

[Text] In Al-Biqa', gunmen assassinated Misbah Muhammad Gharibi, a diplomat posted at the Libyan Embassy in Damascus, and seriously wounded his colleague Muhammad Abu Bakr al-Dahamani yesterday. Libyan Charge d'Affaires in Damascus 'Abd al-Qadir al-Urfali has confirmed the assassination. The DFLP has accused the Amal Movement of assassinating the Libyan diplomat. The front affirmed that the incident constitutes aggression against the Palestinian people and an attempt to thwart Libya's efforts to end the camps fighting in Lebanon.

Amal Statement on Al-Biqa' Ambush

NC260932 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 26 Dec 86

[Statement issued by the Amal Movement on 25 December]

[Text] A bus belonging to the Amal Movement and carrying some of the movement's fighters, who were on their way back to Al-Biqa' from Beirut, was ambushed before a DFLP position in the area at 1300 on Thursday, 25 December. Brother Husayn Haydar was martyred and five of his comrades were wounded in the ambush. Consequently, Syrian forces intervened and resolved the situation.

While recalling strange Palestinian actions against those who have embraced the oppressed Palestinian people, the Amal Movement believes that with today's strike in Al-Biqa' the followers of 'Arafat and Palestinian deviationists, who endorse the plot being implemented in Tyre, Sidon, Beirut, and Tripoli, wanted to implement their scorched earth policy in Lebanon, killing its people for no ther reason thatn perhaps to serve Israel and ignite the spirit of sedition between the Lebanese and Palestinian people. This is particularly true in light of the alliance between the PLO and the Lebanese Phalangist regime. Today's ambush, which followed the same pattern as the ambush against a bus in 'Ayn al-Rummanah, is a clear manifestation of this alliance. Although the instrument of implementation in these incidents differed, their goals are the same.

While condemning this cowardly method, the Amal Movement expects the Palestinian people to speak out about the plots of their deviationist leaders, and it hopes they will rise against such plots, as one with our struggling people in the occupied West Bank. This is the only correct way to expel the occupation forces. The operations in Maghdushah and Sa'd Nayil will not achieve this objective. On this occasion we express our appreciation for the vigilance of our people in Sa'd Nayil and their honorable stand, which foiled the plotters' attempt to sow sedition, the fuel of which is the deprived among the sons of our Lebanese and Palestinian peoples.

Junblatt Affirms Al-Jumayyil-'Arafat Deal

NC250720 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 25 Dec 86

[Text] Walid Junblatt, minister of public works and tourism, has stated that PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has concluded a deal with President Amin al-Jumayyil. In an interview published in the UAE paper *Al-Khalij* yesterday, Junblatt said that Al-Jumayyil has granted facilities to 'Arafat and that some Arab embassies in East Beirut have provided further facilities to 'Arafat, who managed to reinfiltrate Lebanon because of a lack of coordination among influential nationalist forces in West Beirut.

Junblatt accused some embassies in East Beirut of supplying arms to Christian militias to fight Syria. He affirmed that differences among Arab states have prompted some embassies to ally themselves with the Christian militias. He added that these differences further prompted these embassies to provide arms, ammunition, and funds to fight Syria. He pointed out that his party [PSP] stands with Damascus, which is confronting an Arab and international campaign.

Minister Junblatt described as strange Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's call to the Palestinian forces not to abandon their positions in Maghdushah township. Junblatt called for a redefinition of Lebanese-Palestinian relations, saying that the Lebanese people must grant all rights to the Palestinians except that of citizenship, which would permit them to settle permanently in Lebanon.

Amal on Palestinian Withdrawal

NC251148 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1115 GMT 25 Dec 86

[Excerpt] While the security and political situation remains unchanged, PNSF sources in Sidon today announced that the PNSF had developed a draft solution providing for the withdrawal of pro-'Arafat forces from Maghdushah at 1800 today.

Contacted by our radio station, the Amal leadership in the south affirmed that the Amal Movement cannot possibly accept an agreement which does not include provisions for unconditional Palestinian withdrawal from Maghdushah. Amal expressed the hope that the nationalist parties would adopt a frank stand regarding the camps war instead of a stand vacillating between the two sides. Amal stressed its hope that the forces which will enter Maghdushah to replace the pro-'Arafat fighters will not become involved in the fighting. [passage omitted]

DFLP: Birri Rejected Agreement

NC251226 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 25 Dec 86

[Text] DFLP Assistant Secretary General Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh has accused Minister Nabih Birri of rejecting the recent draft agreement reached in Damascus, saying: We came from Damascus with the draft agreement reached at a meeting of the leaders of the PNSF and leftist parties with Libyan Major 'Abd al-Salam Jallud. After discussions in Sidon the Palestinian groups agreed to the implementation of the agreement. However, we have learned that Minister Birri has refused to begin the implementation, setting new conditions which call for excluding of the main national forces from participating in taking over the positions in Maghdushah and rejecting any role for scholars in implementing this agreement.

Amal's Dawud Asserts Authority

NC261210 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 26 Dec 86

[Text] According to the *Al-Masirah* newspaper, Dawud Dawud, the Amal Movement's official in the South, has summoned a number of Amal officials in the South and told them that decisionmaking in the area is up to him alone. He gave them the choice of obeying his orders or joining Birri in Damascus and taking up the battle with him there.

'Arafat Consults With Iranians

NC271341 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 27 Dec 86

[Excerpts] According to a diplomatic report, the ongoing efforts to put an end to the camps war do not address its real causes. The means for a practical solution are also missing. This is particularly true with regard to the buffer forces needed in Beirut and the south. The report cites Fatah sources as saying that the Soviet Union, in its capacity as a power broker, has drawn the line with Shatila camp. According to Fatah sources, the Soviets believe that the fall of this camp would trigger an escalation in military operations that could go beyond shelling from Palestinian positions on the mountain. [passage omitted]

According to the same report, PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat is holding consultations with Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the speaker of the Iranian parliament. 'Arafat is concentrating attention on the Iranian and Libyan initiatives, both of which have been rejected by the Amal Movement. Contacts between the Damascus-based PNSF and the Baghdad-based PLO are continuing with Syrian blessing, the report adds. 'Arafat views this development as a personal victory, having both the Palestinian financial and military trump cards up his sleeve.

Major Camps Largely Destroyed

NC271547 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 27 Dec 86

[Text] The fighting along the combat lines in Shatila and Burj al-Barajinah turned violent at 1430. Rockets, artillery, and machineguns have been employed in the clashes. Meanwhile, in a joint statement issued today, the PNSF, the DFLP, and the Abu Nidal group announced that 85 percent of the Shatila camp and 50 percent of Burj al-Barajinah and Al-Rashidiyah have been destroyed. The declaration also notes that well over 250 Palestinians have been killed, and another 800 wounded.

30 Killed as Syrians Surround Villages

NC251806 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1630 GMT 25 Dec 86

[Text] Prime Minister Rashid Karami met today at his home in Miryatah with the mufti of Tripoli, Taha al-Sabunji. In a statement afterward, the mufti said he had briefed the prime minister on the causes and effects of recent developments. He also conveyed the feelings and demands of the people of Tripoli, and stressed that incidents in the city must be avoided. In addition, he noted that the poorer neighborhoods where these painful episodes took place must be helped. Prime Minister Karami also received delegations from Al-Dinniyah, and their members recounted what happened in the area. They expressed their support for the Syrian ADF as their legitimate defense against foreign interference.

Security sources report that the Syrians raided villages in Northern Lebanon today while looking for weapons and for those suspected of involvement in last week's clashes. Helicopters were said to have flown over the area, and the sound of heavy machine-gun fire could be heard during the search. The Syrians, backed by tanks and other military vehicles, surrounded 10 villages in Northern Lebanon yesterday, and established roadblocks in the mountainous zones east of Tripoli. Dozens of people were detained after a Syrian roadblock was attacked. More than 36 hours of violent fighting followed this incident, and at least 30 people were killed.

Kan'an Supervising 'Murders'

NC281839 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic
1645 GMT 28 Dec 86

[Text] According to reports received from Al-Dinniyah this evening, the raids, arrests, and murders being carried out by Syrian forces in the area take place under the supervision and in the presence of Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an, Major General 'Ali Haydar, commander of the Syrian special units, and Lieutenant Colonel Muhammad al-Sha'ar of Syrian intelligence, who is responsible for the massacres which were carried out in Hamah and Homs [in Syria]. According to the same reports, individuals arrested are moved to the Jabal Muhsin al-'Ali area in Tripoli, where they are physically eliminated under the supervision of Muhsin 'Id, Abu Shakib, and Kamal, who is nicknamed Al-Khumayni. The dead are then buried in mass graves near the Al-Ma'rifah club.

It is also reported that the Syrian forces have arrested Shaykh 'Abdallah Hawshar in Al-Dinniyah and moved him, on Brig Gen Ghazi Kan'an's orders, to the Al-Amirikan school, where he is being tortured. The Syrians have arrested other shaykhs, whose fate remains unknown. Also according to these reports, Brig Gen Kan'an is now at the Sayr al-Dinniyah secondary school, surrounded by two battalions of Syrian special units. According to reports received from Tripoli today, a red volskwagon has for several days been moving detainees from Bab al-Tabbanah and Al-Zahariyah in Tripoli to Jabal Muhsin, where they have been killed.

Movement Leader's Arrest Denied

NC290705 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
0615 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Text] The Islamic Unification Movement has denied that the Syrian forces have arrested Shaykh Hashim Minqarah, one of the movement's leaders, in a village in the 'Akkar district. In a statement to a foreign news agency in Beirut, a spokesman for the movement said that by spreading such stories the Syrians are trying to demoralize the movement's fighters in 'Akkar and Tripoli.

Al-Asad Receives Phone Call From France's Chirac

JN242157 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
2115 GMT 24 Dec 86

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received a telephone call from French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac, who expressed his thanks as well as the thanks of the French people and government to President Hafiz al-Asad for the Syrian authorities' assistance in releasing Aurel Cournea, the French hostage who was released today. During his call, Chirac said that he and the French people and government highly appreciate this assistance. The president thanked him for the call and said: We are pleased with Cornea's release, and we share with Chirac and the French people and government their happiness on this occasion. He added that he takes this opportunity to express his wishes of happiness for Chirac and the French people on the eve of Christmas and the new year. Chirac repeated his thanks, wishing the president and the Syrian people a happy new year.

In Paris, French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac's office announced today that Aurel Cornea, who was held in Beirut and released 10 months after his abduction, will be taken to Paris by plane tomorrow afternoon. Reports quoted a French Government statement as saying that the French Government is very happy with this result on Christmas Eve and that it thanks all those who contributed to the release and who were being contacted in the past hours.

President Al-Asad Receives Tripoli Islamic Leader

JN281721 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1615 GMT 28 Dec 86

[Text] At noon today, President Hafiz al-Asad received Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban, head of the Islamic Unification Movement in Tripoli, together with Malik 'Allush and 'Abdallah Babti. They discussed the situation in Tripoli.

Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban condemned the failed attempt by a certain group having dubious connections to tamper with the city's security. Indicating that the Islamic Unification Movement condemned this bid from the outset, he emphasized Syria's principal role in maintaining security in Tripoli. President Al-Asad reiterated that Syria will continue to work for the preservation of security in Tripoli.

Al-Asad Congratulates SRV Leader on Election

JN241522 Damascus SANA in Arabic
1300 GMT 24 Dec 86

[Text] Damascus, 24 Dec (SANA) — President Hafiz al-Asad has sent a cable to Nguyen Van Lonh on his election as general secretary of the Central Committee of the Vietnamese Communist Party.

In his cable to the Vietnamese official, President Al-Asad expressed in his name and on the behalf of the leadership of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party his sincerest congratulations to him and wished him continued good health and success. He also expressed his confidence that the ties of friendship and cooperation between the two parties and countries will continue to develop.

President Congratulates Kiprianou on Reelection

JN241526 Damascus SANA in Arabic
1255 GMT 24 Dec 86

[Text] Damascus, 24 Dec (SANA) — President Hafiz al-Asad has sent a cable to President Spiros Kiprianou on his reelection as secretary general of the Cypriot Democratic Party.

In his cable to the Cypriot president, President al-Asad expressed in his name and on the behalf of the leadership of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party his sincerest congratulations to him and wished him continued good health and success. He also expressed his confidence that the ties of friendship and cooperation between the two parties and countries will continue to develop.

Foreign Minister Receives Cuban Official, Letter

JN271309 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1215 GMT Dec 86

[Text] At noon today Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received Giraldo Mazola, Cuban vice foreign minister for Middle East and African Affaires, along with Assistant Foreign Minister Dia'ullah al-Fattal, Dr Ahmad Saqr, head of the American Department at the Foreign Ministry; the Cuban ambassador in Damascus; and (Luis Maris) of the North Africa and Middle East Divison of the Cuban Foreign Ministry. Al-Shar' received a letter from the Cuban foreign minister stessing his county's full solidarity with Syria in confronting the U.S.-British campaign seeking to encourage Israel's expansionist and aggressive policies.

Discussions during the meeting ranged over Middle East and international developments and ways to promote bilateral ties.

Intelligence Officers Found Dead Outside Camp

NC241923 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1715 GMT 24 Dec 86

[Text] The *Central News Agency* has quoted Palestinian sources as saying that the bodies of six Syrian intelligence officers were found 2 days ago outside the Al-Yarmuk [Palestinian] camp in a Damascus suburb. Camps in Syria have obtained weapons, and a number of gunmen managed to take 14 members of Syrian intelligence prisoner recently inside Al-Yarmuk. Six of the Syrians were killed in reaction to the events in Tripoli, while the other eight are still in the Camp. Their fate is as yet unknown.

Rabin 'Regrets' No U.S. Stand on Iran Affair

TA241223 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1153 GMT 24 Dec 86

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said today that 80 percent of the U.S. arms shipped to Iran were supplied from U.S. depots, while the rest were supplied from IDF warehouses with U.S. approval. During a tour of Sederot, the defense minister said he had not agreed that Israeli pilots fly the arms to Iran so as not to endanger their lives. We did not earn any money, and we did not do what we did for the money; we concluded the deal without gaining or losing anything, Yitzhaq Rabin said. The defense minister voiced regret over the fact that the U.S. Administration has not yet taken a stand and said: we reached a decision and implemented it. Mr Rabin said that he was proud that the United States can approach Israel and request its assistance in such matters, and the American people will appreciate this once the storm in the United States blows over.

No 'Direct' U.S. Questioning

TA261027 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew
26 Dec p 22

[Report by political correspondent Dalya Shehori]

[Excerpt] The United States has so far not turned to Israel for details on the weapons deal with Iran and the transfer of funds to the contras in Nicaragua. However, in Jerusalem it has already been agreed between the Prime Minister's Office and the Foreign and Defense Ministries that Israel will accept the U.S. appeal only at the governmental level and will not agree to direct questioning of Israeli Government employees by U.S. officials.

It is noted in Jerusalem that the information Israel can give would amount to evidence concerning an internal American affair. Due to the fact that Israel is not implicated in the investigation of the affair — unlike the Pollard affair — Jerusalem is willing to accept the U.S. appeal, but the questioning will be conducted in Israel by the Israeli Government. Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein is coordinating the contacts between the ministries on this issue.

Concerning the contradictions in the testimonies of Robert MacFarlane and Donald Regan regarding the date on which President Reagan approved the weapons shipments from Israel to Iran, Israeli political elements said the contacts were held with MacFarlane, and it is inconceivable that this was done without President Reagan's knowledge. [passage omitted]

Swiss Bank Account Closed

TA280943 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
28 Dec 86 p 1

[Text] The Defense Ministry recently closed the bank account that had been opened in Switzerland in connection with the arms deals with Iran and the transfer of funds from the Iranians to the United States via Israel. This move came in the framework of a comprehensive probe of all financial accounts related to the arms deals.

The probe was ordered by the defense minister and conducted by accountants and security personnel. Among other things, it was conclusively established that, at the American's request, the money that reached Israel through Ya'aqov Nimrodi and Al Schwimmer for the first TOW missiles was transferred onward: Half of it was redeposited in a Swiss bank account provided by the Americans, whereas the other half was handed over to Iranian dealer Ghorbanifar at the Americans' request. These sums amounted to a total of $3 million. The rest of the money received through Nimrodi ($700,000 to $800,000) remained in Israel to cover the expenses incurred by the defense establishment in connection with the shipments.

One of the findings of the probe is that the defense establishment now knows everything that happened with the money it received. Nevertheless, it was pointed out that the probe did not at all address what happened to other funds which the Iranians handed over directly to other dealers and liaison men, including officials, and which never reached Israel.

Shamir Discusses Economy, Iran Affair, Peace

TA251355 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew
1935 GMT 24 Dec 86

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by Yoram Ronen and political correspondent Yig'al Goren on the weekly "Moqed" program; place not given — live]

[Excerpts] [Ronen] Two months have passed since the rotation of the premiership, and Yitzhaq Shamir is appearing on the Moqed program in his capacity as prime minister for the first time tonight. Good evening to you, Mr Prime Minister.

[Shamir] Good evening.

[Ronen] Good evening to our political correspondent Yig'al Goren.

[Goren] Good evening.

[Ronen] It is only natural that we should begin this program with questions about economic issues. Mr Shamir arrived here straight from the first session of the economic cabinet on the budget cuts. These deliberations will presumably conclude in a compromise; Minister Yiga'el Hurvitz said this evening that such a compromise will take the soul out of the economic plan. Treasury officials believe that if the budget is not cut by 0.5 billion Israeli shekels it would be better to send the entire plan back to the Cabinet. My question is: Will there be a cut of 0.5 billion shekels?

[Shamir] I cannot tell you the exact sum, but there is no doubt that a cut will be effected. Expenditures will be cut because this is a necessity.

[Ronen] There is a serious argument about the cut in the defense budget. The Treasury demands a cut of 180 million shekels while the defense minister demands an increment of 150 million shekels.

[Shamir] This is natural, and I have said so on other occasions. It is very difficult to slash defense expenditures in view of the existing constrictions, the security situation, and the military armament of the Arab countries surrounding us. However, we will have to find a solution.

[Ronen] What you suggest is that there will be a cut in the defense budget but perhaps not as large as the Treasury proposes.

[Shamir] I did not say that. However, what I am saying is that a cut must be effected. The defense budget is a special case, a case all its own. [passage omitted]

[Goren] Mr Prime Minister, if the United States asks us to question the people involved in the affair of the arms shipments to Iran, will Israel comply with such a request and allow the Americans to question the pertinent people here in Israel?

[Shamir] From the outset we have told the U.S. Government that we are prepared to help and cooperate with it, as one must do with an ally. However, this cooperation must be between governments rather than between one government and the citizens of another government; this is how we will proceed.

[Goren] Sir, what do we actually have to hide? After all, we have been saying publicly that our hands are totally clean in this affair. So if we have nothing to hide, why should we not say: Please, come and question whomever you want?

[Shamir] We have nothing to hide, you are absolutely right. I once said that Israel's conscience is absolutely clean. However, as far as investigations are concerned it is not customary for foreign governments to interrogate the citizens of other governments. This may be settled by contacts between the governments; ways can be found to conduct an investigation.

[Goren] By means of questionnaires?

[Ronen] Such an investigation was conducted in the Pollard affair, when U.S. investigators questioned Israeli citizens.

[Shamir] That was a totally different case.

[Ronen] Still, there is a precedent.

[Shamir] The nature of the affair is different, and therefore that case cannot serve as a precedent. I do not want to go into details. We will find a way to cooperate with the United States without deviating from the principle of contacts between governments.

[Ronen] Mr Shamir, among other things your agreement with Shim'on Peres mentions the possibility of replacing 'Amiram Nir, the counterterrorism adviser. Do you intend to replace him or might such a move be construed as a dismissal, in view of his role in the affair of the arms shipments to Iran?

[Shamir] Look, if I ever decide to replace anybody this will have been agreed upon with Shim'on Peres. The first person to hear about it from me will be Shim'on Peres.

[Goren] Speaking of appointments, you once promised to give Minister Moda'i an executive portfolio as of January. Do you plan to bring Moda'i back to the Justice Ministry?

[Shamir] I cannot say that I promised an executive portfolio. In my opinion Minister Moda'i must be a member of the Cabinet with a specific portfolio. I will work to that end to the best of my abilities.

[Ronen] You also said that the justice portfolio was being entrusted with Minister Sharir for safekeeping. So, one and one make two.

[Shamir] Everybody can do his own arithmetic as he pleases. The truth is that Minister Sharir cannot simultaneously carry out two ministerial duties for a prolonged period of time. We will have to find a solution to this problem, just as we will have to find a solution to the problem of Minister Moda'i.

[Goren] You would not say though that giving the justice portfolio to Moda'i sounds illogical?

[Shamir] I did not say that.

[Goren] I am asking you.

[Shamir] Well, we will see.

[Ronen] Mr Shamir, this week the Foreign Ministry issued a new guideline to the effect that the Palestinian Charter should no longer be mentioned in Israel's publications abroad. Was this guideline, which may represent a change in our attitude toward the PLO, approved by you?

[Shamir] I did not hear the exact reasons behind this move, I only read about it in the press. However, I am certain that there are no differences of opinion between us over the principle that there should be no contacts with the PLO and that there will be no negotiations between Israel and the PLO. As for explaining the nature of the PLO in our publications, I believe we must thwart this murderous organization's drive to become a respectable and dignified body with whom one can talk and negotiate while in fact it is an organization of murderers, an organization whose objective is to annihilate a people. I think this should not be concealed from anybody and the PLO's true face must be exposed at every possible opportunity.

[Ronen] Then, you are in favor of mentioning the Palestinian Charter in our publications in contravention of the new guideline issued by the Foreign Ministry.

[Shamir] The Palestinian Charter is proof of the PLO's murderous and racial hatred of our people. Therefore, I would not rush to eliminate it from our publications.

[Ronen] Do you plan to discuss this with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and make him revoke this guideline?

[Shamir] We will certainly discuss this. I would like to hear his counterarguments.

[Goren] Despite the fact that we have been mentioning the Palestinian Charter for years the situation now is that the PLO has more representations around the world than the State of Israel.

[Shamir] Is that the reason why? Look, some of us occasionally feel the urge — an urge which I can neither understand nor come to terms with — to change policies which have been in effect for many years; these people feel that innovation may prompt change. For many years, ever since the PLO was established, we have tried to expose its murderous nature. Some people are tired of this and say this has been in vain. However, one may also say that had we not done this, the situation would have been far worse. I am sure about it.

[Goren] Still on the same issue: People in the Alignment say no progress will be made in the peace process if something is not done about holding an international conference. For almost 20 years we have been trying, so far unsuccessfully, to hold direct negotiations with Jordan. So, would it not be wise to look into the possibility of holding an international conference?

[Shamir] I would not say 20 years. As far back as I can remember, the principle upheld by all governments has been that peace between us and the Arab countries can only be attained through direct negotiations. All Israeli Governments without exception have objected to negotiations with the participation of various international elements, most of which object to our position. That is exactly why we have been insisting on direct negotiations — and it is very hard to object to such negotiations. Let us see: Who would take part in an international conference if such a conference were held today?

[Goren] The United States, the Soviet Union.

[Shamir] The Soviet Union holds a clearly extremist anti-Israeli position, and the same holds true about the PRC. None of the countries, not even the United States, support Israel's positions. Indeed, we would be pushed to a corner, we would be totally isolated, and we would be in an unbearable position whereas if we insist on the principle of direct negotiations we would be the other half of any negotiations.

[Goren] Sir, do you see even a remotely feasible chance for direct negotiations with Jordan or maybe there would be no sense in such negotiations since, as we also hear from you, we have a de facto peace with Jordan?

[Shamir] I would not hasten to make such a statement. What I say is that relations with Jordan are not the worst they could be, although I would prefer peaceful relations. I would like to reach the point of direct negotiations and I hope we will eventually. After all, did any of us expect to reach direct negotiations with Egypt 1 or 10 years earlier?

[Ronen] Still, the preliminaries for negotiations between us and Jordan were more or less concluded in the meeting between Shim'on Peres and Husni Mubarak in Alexandria. It was then explicitly stated that the way to direct negotiations is holding preparations for an international conference. This was the way agreed by both Peres, Mubarak and, perhaps, even Husayn.

[Shamir] Look, it is still not clear what sort of a conference this would be, who would take part in it, what the roles of the various participants would be, and whether when Shim'on Peres talks about an international conference he means the same thing Husni Mubarak and Husayn do. For example, I would agree to some sort of gathering [hitkansut] between us, Egypt, and Jordan.

[Goren] Without an international aegis?

[Shamir] What do we need that for?

[Goren] And what if Jordan poses this as a condition, saying it would enter negotiations only with an international umbrella?

[Shamir] Look, we talked about negotiations without preconditions. If Jordan wants to enter negotiations it must take our wishes into consideration.

[Ronen] Do Shim'on Peres and Yitzhaq Shamir mean the same when they talk about an international conference?

[Shamir] In any case, Shim'on Peres is closer to Yitzhaq Shamir than to Mubarak or a Soviet representative.

[Goren] Would it be correct to say that the Alignment believes that if such a process were to get under way you would ultimately not object to it despite your recent statements?

[Shamir] I think that those who think so are wrong. This is a matter of principle. I believe that holding an international conference based on the Soviet-Arab concept would put Israel in a very serious situation. [passage omitted]

Shamir To Pay 'Official Visit' to U.S. in Feb

TA242002 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 24 Dec 86

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir will arrive in Washington on an official visit at the beginning of February at the official invitation of the U.S. Administration, our Washington correspondent Nisim Mish'al reports. Our correspondent adds that this will be the prime minister's first visit to the United States since he assumed power. The visit will take place in the midst of the congressional investigation of the Iran affair, and the question of Israel's involvement will most probably be raised in the talks Mr Shamir will hold in Washington.

U.S. State Department officials told our correspondent that the administration will also invite Egyptian President Husni Mubarak for an official visit in February. The administration wants Mubarak's visit to the United States to take place before Shamir's arrival.

Shin Bet Investigation Report Ordered Released

TA281955 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1910 GMT 28 Dec 86

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir did not give a directive to kill the terrorists who hijacked the No 300 bus. Mr Shamir also did not support the falsification of evidence following the event.

This transpires from the conclusions of the report of a commission set up by the Justice Ministry headed by the attorney general, which was given this morning to the prime minister, the vice prime minister, and the defense minister. Our correspondent Dan Scemama reports from the studio:

The commission of jurists dealt with two issues in its 65 page-long report: Was there a directive given beforehand, as was claimed by the Shin Bet chief, according to which he had the authority to decide on killing the terrorists on the No 300 bus. The second issue was whether the political echelon gave its support to the falsification of evidence after the fact? In these two issues the conclusion of the commission was that Yitzhaq Shamir never sanctioned the falsification of evidence. The team clearly states in many places of the report that Yitzhaq Shamir did not support the falsification of evidence.

The team clearly states in many places of the report that the claims of former Shin Bet chief Avraham Shalom should not be accepted, and that his comments were completely unreasonable. The team of jurists examined the claim of Avraham Shalom according to which he told Yitzhaq Shamir 2 days following the killing of the terrorists that he, the head of the Shin Bet chief, gave the order to kill them, and that from this it is clear that Yitzhaq Shamir knew about the affair from the beginning. From the investigation it appears that immediately following the incident Avraham Shalom told Shamir casually that the terrorists were killed by the order of then Defense Minister Moshe Arens. A day later Shalom apologized to Arens, saying that he made a mistake. A year and a half later, during his interrogation by the police, Avraham Shalom apparently forgot this incident, and therefore the team of jurists does not believe his version at all.

In the issue of the falsification of evidence all the Shin Bet people who have been interrogated said they acted on the assumption that the political echelon was backing up the falsification of evidence. However, nobody claimed that they actually heard this from the political echelon. They heard about it only from Avraham Shalom.

Another thing from the conclusions of the commission: One of the Shin Bet heads, Avraham Hazaq, who was the one who blew the affair open, knew about the falsification of the evidence and was involved in it. The members of the commission recommend not to open criminal proceedings against him because he was the one who uncovered the affair.

Several minutes ago it was reported that the prime minister asked the attorney general to publish the entire report to bring it to the public's knowledge.

Peres, Bethlehem Mayor Comment on PLO Offer

TA250607 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
0500 GMT 25 Dec 86

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres says the PLO has not changed, and only when Yasir 'Arafat gives up terror and starts talking could Israel consider him as a potential partner for dialogue. Peres was speaking at Bethlehem last night at Mayor Ilyas Frayj's annual Christmas reception. Reporter Steve Weizman was there.

[Begin recording] [Weizman] Yesterday the Foreign Ministry confirmed press reports that Peres turned down an offer of direct negotiations made some 6 months ago by PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. At last night's reception Peres explained why.

[Peres] I think 'Arafat can speak for himself, and when he will stop terror and start talking then we shall consider maybe a message did come. Unfortunately we are getting another way of information, by knives and by cartridges, and the PLO continues its violence, its terror. The attempt that was done by King Husayn, the joint committee to negotiate, was in vain. I still believe that the PLO is so busy with keeping its tools and forgetting its targets that nothing really has changed.

[Weizman] Neither Peres nor the Foreign Ministry would say if the 'Arafat proposal was accompanied by a willingness to recognize UN Resolutions 242 and 338 and the commitment to forgo the use of violence. Palestinian sources say 'Arafat was ready to make that step. Whatever the truth, Mayor Frayj says the 'Arafat offer was a significant step in itself.

[Frayj] It proves then that the Palestinians are sincere in their efforts to reach a peace agreement with Israel. They hope that the Israelis will in future respond in a more positive way. However, I personally highly respect Mr Peres. I don't know what the reasons were; I have not spoken with him about it. Had I known about it I would have spoken with him tonight about it. I will try to raise this question with Mr Peres in the coming weeks.

[Weizman] Both Peres and his ministry are treating the whole matter in a low-key fashion. We get plenty of these stories, said Peres. The rejection is in line with the existing government policy, says the Foreign Ministry.

In the meantime, diplomatic sources are awaiting the outcome of the forthcoming Islamic conference to be held next month in Kuwait. To a large extent, they say, progress on Middle East peace will depend on the outcome of that meeting. [end recording]

Peres Welcomes Frayj Proposal

TA272038 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
2000 GMT 27 Dec 86

[Text] The vice prime minister this evening welcomed the proposal by the mayor of Bethlehem to halt acts of violence in the Middle East in 1987.

Our correspondent Yo'el Dar reports that Shim'on Peres was speaking during celebrations taking place in Upper Nazareth, to mark 30 years since its establishment. He said Israel is willing to accept this suggestion and to halt hostilities not only for 1 year but for many years to come. However, he is afraid that the other side will not accept this. Mr Peres added that our willingness for peace does not stem from weakness but from our desire for peace and our ability to defend our country.

Frayj Discloses Shamir Talks

TA280720 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 8 Dec 86 p 2

[Report by Joel Greenberg]

[Excerpt] Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj revealed yesterday that he had met last month for a political discussion with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir at the premier's office in Jerusalem. It was the first such meeting Shamir has held in office with a local Palestinian leader.

Frayj told *The Jerusalem Post* that the talks had been "exploratory. We did not meet to negotiate," he said. "We exchanged views about current events and the situation. It was very useful, and I believe such meetings should be encouraged."

Frayj declined to give further details, and the prime minister's spokesman, Yosi Ahime'ir, refused comment. [passage omitted]

AL-SHA'B Editor Withdraws Deportation Appeal

TA261231 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 26 Dec 86

[Text] A short time ago Akram Haniyah, the editor of the East Jerusalem newspaper *Al-Sha'b*, abruptly withdrew the appeal to the High Court of Justice against the deportation order pending against him. According to our correspondent Arye Gus, Haniyah said that after the court prevented him and his attorneys from examining the secret material presented against him he reached the conclusion that they would not be given the opportunity to defend themselves against the arguments of the security forces. Haniyah said he was a victim of the struggle for the legitimate rights of his people and noted that his deportation would not halt this struggle.

At noon, his attorneys notified the High Court of Justice of Haniyah's decision. Our correspondent notes that Haniyah will probably be deported next week.

Leaves for Switzerland

TA280931 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 28 Dec 86

[Text] Akram Haniyah, a member of Fatah and the editor of *Al-Sha'b*, left Israel this morning. He was brought to the airport in a police car and boarded a Swissair plane. An International Red Cross official escorted him to the plane. He left Geneva and will apparently continue from there to Algeria.

Akram Haniyah was charged with being involved in hostile activities against Israel on behalf of Fatah. He was going to appeal to the High Court of Justice about the deportation order pending against him but gave up.
One of he owners of *Al-Sha'b*, 'Ali Ya'ish, expressed his sorrow at the deportation of Akram Haniyah. He told our correspondent Arye Gus that this was a sad moment in the history of the newspaper. Our correspondent points out that the first editor of *Al-Sha'b* was deported from Israel 12 years ago.

Arab Newspapers To Strike

TA282001 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 28 Dec 86

[Text] Two East Jerusalem newspapers, *Al-Sha'b* and *Al-Fajr*, will strike on Tuesday to protest the deportation of Akram Haniyah. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports this step is being taken on the recommendation of the Arab Journalists Association in the territories. The association denounced the deportation.

Jerusalem Interviews Egyptian Ambassador Basyuni

JN250838 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1530 GMT 25 Dec 86

[Interview with Egyptian Ambassador to Israel Muhammad Basyuni by radio correspondent Bassam Jabir; date and place not given — recorded]]

[Text] [Jabir] Egyptian Ambassador to Israel Muhammad Basyuni, 25 professors from American and Australian universities are currently visiting the country. You personally received them at your residence. Why the visit and what did the meeting involve?

[Basyuni] The reason for the visit was their desire to become acquainted with the reality of the situation in the region. I answered their questions about Egyptian-Israeli relations and peace efforts.

[Jabir] You have mentioned peace efforts. What have these efforts achieved?

[Basyuni] As you know, during the summit meeting in Alexandria last September between President Husni Mubarak and Mr Shim'on Peres it was agreed to hold an international conference for peace as a framework for talks. Now, efforts will continue within this context. General Avraham Tamir, director general of the Foreign Ministry, will visit Cairo next Sunday within this context.

[Jabir] Your Excellency, a number of Israeli ministers visited Egypt recently. It has been noticed that they are all from the Labor Party or from parties allied with the Labor Party and not from the Likud. Why doesn't Egypt invite ministers from the Likud to visit also?
[Basyuni] Egypt deals with the Israeli Government and not with individuals. The visits which take place are not carried out on a party basis, but on a governmental basis to discuss bilateral relations. For example, Minister Shahal visited Cairo as minister of energy to discuss topics in the field of petroleum. Professor Amnon Rubinstein also visited Cairo as minister of communications, as there are joint issues requiring solutions, such as telephone communication between Egypt and Israel and the possibility of direct communication between them through Sinai and not through the naval cable passing through Italy. Also, Likud ministers have visited Egypt, such as Tourism Minister Avraham Sharir.

[Jabir] Mr Ambassador, was the purchase of Israeli weapons by Iran discussed during the visits of Minister Shahal or Minister

Amnon Rubinstein to Cairo, as implied by some papers. What is Egypt's stand on this and why does Egypt support Iraq in this war?

[Basyuni] I confirm that this subject was not discussed at all during the visits of Minister Shahal or Minister Rubinstein to Cairo. I think, Mr Bassam that, if you had posed this question to the two ministers, they would have immediately confirmed that they did not discuss this subject with Egyptian officials.

As for Egypt's stand, this stand is clear, explicit, and final on this subject. Egypt believes it is necessary to halt this war which is escalating everyday. Egypt's support for Iraq falls within this framework. Iraq agrees to end the war, while Iran does not.

[Jabir] Mr Basyuni, do you think there is a possibility for a summit meeting between President Husni Mubarak and Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir?

[Basyuni] Only about 2 months have passed since the last summit meeting between Egypt and Israel. It is not customary to hold summit meetings between two countries at such close intervals unless there is an urgent need for that. As you know, the dialogue between the two leaders continues through the exchange of letters, as was published by the mass media.

[Jabir] Many thanks to Egypt's Ambassador to Israel Mr Muhammad Basyuni.

[Basyuni] You are welcome, Mr Bassam.

Reports Received From Egypt on Cairo Talks

TA251000 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew
25 Dec 86 p 2

[Report by political correspondent Yosi Melman]

[Text] Israel has received a report from Egypt on talks conducted there by Jordanian Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri.

Davar has learned that Egyptian Ambassador to Israel Muhammad Basyuni conveyed a report on these talks to Foreign Ministry Director General Avraham Tamir and to Nimrod Novik, the foreign minister's political adviser.

The Jordanian foreign minister spent a week in the Egyptian capital, where he held talks with government leaders there on the chances of promoting the peace process and on incorporating Jordan, together with a Palestinian delegation, in the peace process with Israel. Egypt also sent a report on the talks held by Hani al-Hasan, the PLO chairman's political adviser, in Cairo.

It emerges from the reports that obstacles still exist regarding the composition of the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation and the structure of the international conference that is to accompany the talks.

IDF Soldiers Raid Lebanese Village 24 Dec

TA241550 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1500 GMT 24 Dec 86

[Excerpts] IDF soldiers carried out an operation in the village of Maydun in the eastern sector of Lebanon early this morning. Many terrorists were hurt and several buildings which served the terrorists were destroyed. Our correspondent in the north Menahem Horowitz reports:

[Begin recording] IDF soldiers, supported by attack helicopters, today carried out an operation in the village of Maydun, 3 km north of the security zone. This village served the terrorists as a point of departure for attacks on the security zone. Five structures that housed terrorists were destroyed and two vehicles were damaged. It is estimated that many terrorists, mainly Shi'ites of the Hizballah organization, were injured during the IDF operation. Our forces sustained no casualties.

IDF soldiers in Lebanon's eastern sector say that the terrain in the region is very rough, and a great deal of skill is needed to prevent the infiltration of terrorists. [passage omitted]

Until the Lebanese war the village of Maydun had been populated by thousands of residents. Upon the outbreak of the war many of the residents fled and terrorists took over. About 2 months ago dozens of terrorists attacked a South Lebanese Army [SLA] position south of Maydun. Many of the SLA soldiers were hurt. Lately SLA soldiers have carried out operations in the village of Maydun, killing terrorists, but it seems that, despite this activity, hostile elements established themselves in the village again. The IDF's Northern Command launches various types of oeprations against terrorists organizing in the regions adjacent to the security zone in southern Lebanon. [end recording]

Over 10 Lebanese Killed

TA250524 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0500 GMT 25 Dec 86

[Text] More than 10 terrorists were killed in the IDF attack on the village of Maydun, which lies beyond the security strip in southern Lebanon. The bodies of several terrorists are still trapped under the rubble from the destroyed buildings, and attempts continued throughout the night to remove them.

Our correspondent has learned from sources in Lebanon that the terrorists who were killed belonged to Hizballah and left-wing Shi'ite organizations.

Italian Interests Unharmed by Vanunu Affair

TA250955 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew
25 Dec 86 p 1

[Report by Ilan Kfir]

[Text] Last night Israel conveyed to the Italian Government the clarifications it had requested on the Vanunu affair. Mordekhay Drori, Israel's ambassador in Rome, met with the Italian Foreign

Ministry's political director general and handed him Israel's official reply. The ambassador asked the Italian Government not to take too much notice of Vanunu's attempts to attract attention and to arouse international public opinion in his favor.

In the Israeli document, which was probably formulated in consultations between Shamir and Peres, the Israeli Government claims that it did not harm Italy's interests. The government explains the background to the Vanunu affair and denounces his action as having done harm to the country's security and laws.

Ambassador Drori yesterday voiced the hope that the good relations between Israel and Italy will continue. People in Jerusalem believe that the entire affair will blow over in the coming days and that after the Christmas holidays the Italian press will cease covering the Vanunu case.

It is believed that the Italian Government will make do with submitting an official protest and will not create a political crisis. Italian Prime Minister Bettino Craxi has told correspondents that the minimum and maximum his country can do regarding the affair is to issue a protest to Israel.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir plans to hold a discussion shortly on the military censorship policy, following the publication of a photograph of Vanunu's hand in all the foreign newspapers.

[Tel Aviv *'Al Hamishmar* in Hebrew on 25 December on page onecarries a similar report by political correspondent Dalya Shehori and news agencies, which adds: "The content of the clarifications has not been reported, but it has been learned that the Foreign Ministry was to explain that Vanunu did not pass through Italy on his way to Israel."]

Vanunu Pleads Not Guilty

TA280923 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0900 GMT 28 Dec 86

[Text] Mordekhay Vanunu has pleaded not guilty. Vanunu's trial opened this morning at the Jerusalem District Court. He is being charged with collaborating with the enemy in times of war and of aggravated espionage in grave circumstances. He was brought to court in a police car whose windows were painted white. Entrance to the floor on which the trial is being held was blocked, while trials proceeded as usual on other floors of the building.

Our correspondent Gil'ad Sher reports that Mordekhay Vanunu pleaded not guilty to the charges against him in the indictment. He did not talk during the hearing and his attorney, Amnon Zikhroni, replied for him. It is further noted that the deliberations before Justices Eliyahu No'am, Tzvi Tal, and Shalom Brenner lasted a little over 90 minutes. At the end of the hearing Vanunu was taken out of the court surrounded by several police and Border Police personnel, who covered his face with a canvas sack and a red umbrella.

Vanunu was brought to the Jerusalem District Court at 0500 this morning. Before the indictment was read he conferred with his attorney in private.

Our correspondent has learned that the next hearing will be held in approximately 1 and 1/2 months. It seems that Vanunu's attorney today raised preliminary arguments and therefore the hearing was extended. The issue of pressing additional charges against Vanunu due to the incidents with journalists last week was not raised at all.

'Mistake' by N.Y. Archbishop Provokes Criticism

TA281926 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
1800 GMT 28 Dec 86

[Text] Israeli officials say they will only be prepared to meet the New York archbishop, John O'Connor, in their offices in Jerusalem. O'Connor, who had scheduled meetings with Prime Minister Shamir and Foreign Minister Peres, said he would have to cancel them after being told that meeting Israeli leaders in Jerusalem was in violation of Vatican protocol. He said he would still be prepared to meet the Israelis but would not be able to call on them at their offices. Now the Israelis have made it clear that as far as they are concerned, the meetings can only take place in their offices.

Reaction to the O'Connor affair, however, has not been confined to Israeli officials, and there was criticism of the archbishop today from the Catholic apostolic delegation, and the Jewish Anti- Defamation League in Jerusalem, as well. With the details Steve Rodan:

[Begin recording] [Rodan] The Vatican envoy said the entire affair can be summed up in one sentence: Cardinal John O'Connor, head of the New York archdiocese made a mistake. The envoy said that had O'Connor announced he was making a pilgrimage to the holy land, and then a visit to Israeli leaders, the Vatican would not have sounded a word of protest; instead, O'Connor said he was going on a fact-finding mission. That was not religion, but politics, said a source in the apostolic delegate, the Vatican representation in Israel and Jordan. And, vatican foreign policy is made not in the New York archdiocese but in Vatican City. One Vatican diplomat said the Vatican does not think that a cardinal should mix in the politics of the Middle East. The Holy See has a firm policy about that. Still, the Vatican officials cannot give a reason why O'Connor is meeting with King Husayn and Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i of Jordan, but they did not rule out that O'Connor would end up seeing Israeli leaders. O'Connor's personal envoy was in Jerusalem where he was working out the cardinal's schedule. Tonight he is in Amman.

Still, officials of Jewish organizations are angry and said that the O'Connor trip could hurt relations between Catholics and Jews. Rabbi David Rosenne is interreligious director of the Anti-defamation League in Israel.

[Rosenne] He is not going to have any official meeting with major political leaders, in other words, either the prime minister or the foreign minister or, let alone, the president during that particular visit. He can only sour the relationship and give the Jewish people a feeling that after 38 years the Vatican still has not come to terms with the reality of the State of Israel.

[Rodan] Rosenne said that if O'Connor intends not to meet with Israeli leaders, that perhaps it will be better if he does not come to Israel at all. [end recording]

Eytan Denies Asking Pollard for Reports on Leaders

TA261901 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
1800 GMT 26 Dec 86

[Text] Refa'el Eytan, a former adviser to the prime minister on terrorism, denies reports that he asked Jonathan Pollard to gather information for him from U.S. intelligence on Israeli leaders. The reports say Eytan asked for scandalous information on Cabinet ministers and Knesset members for political gains. Eytan told the Voice of Israel such reports were libelous and that, anyway, it was unlikely that U.S. intelligence would have such information on Israeli politicians.

Rabin Says Lavi To Continue Despite Budget Cuts

TA260620 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
0500 GMT 26 Dec 86

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says he is not considering cutting back the Lavi project as a result of the call for additional budget cuts for his ministry. He told reporter Alan Ben-'Ami that the Lavi project will continue:

[Begin recording] [Rabin] Now Mr Zakheim will come at the beginning of January. In accordance to the understanding between the United States and Israel they have to present alternatives to the Lavi in its wider scope to Israel. The kind of a plane to the Air Force, how will it not affect any alternative to the Lavi, the infrastructure of technology, industry and employment, and the cost of the termination of existing contracts if they have to come with alternatives to the Lavi. Allow me to remind you that the position of the government of Israel is that we will continue in the development and production of the Lavi.

[Ben-'Ami] But is there any possibility that with the economic situation as it is you may look more favorably on alternatives than perhaps in the past?

[Rabin] No change, at the present, of our position. [end recording]

Inner Cabinet Increases Security in Jerusalem

TA281631 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1500 GMT 28 Dec 86

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Police Affairs Minister Hayim Bar-Lev said in today's Cabinet session that it has been decided to increase the presence of the security forces, police, and border police in Jerusalem, following the murder of Yitzhaq Amedi and the subsequent events.

Our correspondent 'Oz Frankel reports that the Inner Cabinet has recently held a series of debates on the security situation in Jerusalem. Today the prime minister and police affairs minister gave a report on the conclusions drawn. Minister Bar-Lev said that at present there are almost three times more security personnel in Jerusalem then prior to Amedi's murder. These border police and police forces have been removed from other routine security tasks. Bar-Lev said it is not clear whether this beefed-up presence by the security forces will be maintained in future, but the Inner Cabinet has taken a decision in principle to maintain a large presence by the security forces in Jerusalem and to maintain top alert.

Minister Bar-Lev also said that as a result of the incidents which followed the murder of Amedi 52 Jews and 16 Arabs were detained. According to him there is no room for concern over disturbances on the part of the Jewish inhabitants of the Old City, except for the Shuvu Banim Yeshiva students. Bar-Lev claimed that this is an extremely problematic yeshiva which includes a number of eccentrics and persons with criminal records.

The Inner Cabinet did not decide on new regulations for treating the Jewish and Arab inhabitants of the Old City. Bar-Lev did not mention the possibility that there is a new Jewish underground in Jerusalem.

LIBYA

Tripoli Protests French Military Activity in Chad

LD241357 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic
1330 GMT 24 Dec 86

[Text] The People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison has summoned the French ambassador to the Great Jamahiriyah and conveyed to him the Great Jamahiriyah's protest over the policy of hostile escalation being adopted by the French Government in Chad, manifested in the dispatch of arms and the arrival of military aircraft in Ndjamena from French bases in Africa.

The committee reaffirmed to the French ambassador that the French attitude would lead to a serious escalation of the situation in Chad whose consequences will be borne by the French Government and that the Great Jamahiriyah will fully shoulder its responsibilities in confronting any danger threatening the security of its southern border.

Al-Qadhdhafi Meets General People's Congress

LD281005 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 0350 GMT 28 Dec 86

[Text] The brother Leader of the Revolution yesterday had a meeting with the secretaries of the municipalities' people's congresses and the Secretariat of the General People's Congress. The brother leader reaffirmed the consolidation of the people's authority. He pointed out the need to augment the people's committees for defense at the 3rd ordinary session of the basic People's Congresses.

On Duties of Defense Committees

LD281212 Tripoli JANA in Arabic
0940 GMT 28 Dec 86

[Excerpt] Tripoli, 28 December (JANA) — [passage omitted] The leader of the revolution said that among the first duties of the people's committees for defense is to implement the rotation of the armed people, the main advantage of which is the abolition of compulsory conscription, equality among the masses, and abolition ofprofessional militarism. Through them the people as a whole will be trained to carry arms and to carry out the work which was assigned to the regular army. Consequently, victory will be secured in any battle. Furthermore, when there is no professional militarism the money paid out in wages for soldiers will be saved, and in peace time this rotation will carry out organized collective work.

The leader also stressed the need to attend the meetings of the basic people's congresses in their various sessions and said, those who do not attend will be crossed off our records [saqit qayd], lose citizenship rights, and must not be offered any services by the people's committees or their institutions. He stressed that the measures adopted in this context come as affirmation and consolidation of the people's authority where all the people have the right and the duty to exercise authority and sovereignty.

JANA Editor on 'Shameful' Remarks of UK's Howe

LD281357 Tripoli JANA in Arabic
0800 GMT 28 Dec 86

[Text] Tripoli, 28 Dec JANA — Statements by Geoffrey Howe, the foreign minister of child-killer Thatcher's government, concerning what he called the Soviet forces' intervention in Afghanistan and calling for the withdrawal of these forces were reported by the media yesterday.

The international affairs editor of JANA commented on these statements, saying: It is truly shameful that a person like Geoffrey Howe should talk about the Foreign Ministry of a country whose army has been torturing the Irish people for many years after having seized their land, taken away their freedom, and imposed a repressive regime on them. The last person with the right to talk about these issues is the foreign minister of the government of the child-killer who, since she came to power has relied on the policy of occupation and intervention as a program for her external relations with the world's peoples. She has been trying hard to return the world to the era of colonial empires and their protectorates. This hateful colonialist mentality does not understand, and it must only be dealt with in the way pursued by the IRA and Irish revolutionaries to liberate their country from the detested British colonialism.

MAURITANIA

New Foreign Minister Named, Cabinet Reshuffled

LD261106 Kuwait KUNA in English
1015 GMT 26 Dec 86

[Text] Nouakchott, Dec 26 (KUNA) — Mauritania has announced a cabinet reshuffle in which Foreign Minister Lieutenant-Colonel Ahmed Ould Minnih was replaced by Commander Mohamed Lemine Ould N'diayane.

A communique issued by Mauritania's presidential office Friday said Ahmed Ould Minnih has been appointed chief of staff of the national Armed Forces to replace Lieutenant-Colonel Diallo Mohamed who has now become commander of National Guard under the Superior Military Committee.

The new foreign minister was formerly commander of Mauritania's Sixth Military District, minister of equipment and director of the country's security bureau.

Observers here believe that the the cabinet reshuffle is aimed at strengthening government control of the Armed Forces.

Mauritania has been ruled by military men since 1978. The Armed Forces have always played an important role in keeping the national unity and political stability of the country.

Niger President Ends Working Visit 24 Dec

AB242108 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French
1430 GMT 24 Dec 86

[Excerpts] Niger President Brigadier General Seyni Kountche's friendly working visit to Mauritania has ended. He was seen off

at 1300 by Colonel Maaouiya Sid 'Ahmed Ould Taya, chairman of the Military Committee for National Salvation and head of state. This visit enabled the two heads of state to discuss issues of common interest to them. These include ways and means to combat the drought in the Sahel region, subregional cooperation, and the situation in Africa as well as in several hotbeds in the world. During this visit, the two heads of state held identical views on the issues discussed. [passage omitted]

SUDAN

Al-Mahdi Addresses Nation on Christmas Eve

JN250950 Khartoum SUNA in English 0920 GMT 25 Dec 86

[Text] Khartoum, Dec 25 (SUNA) — Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi Wednesday welcomed the citizens in the southern Sudan who abandoned violence and terrorism and resorted to peace.

Addressing the nation on the occasion of the Christmas Eve Al-Mahdi welcomed the citizens who laid down arms and returned voluntary to the country.

"Violence is unjustifiable and you are welcome in your country, to take part in its building process," Al-Mahdi said. He appealed to those who were currently carrying arms to reject serving alien plots and abandon violence.

Al-Mahdi described those who were carrying the arms as alien tools and that they should decisively be confronted saying that the self-defence was a legitimate matter in all religious traditions and codes.

Al-Mahdi noted that the proposed consitutional conference would discuss religious and political issues to reconcile between the citizenship rights and the religious commitment in order to define the Arabic and African affiliation.

He noted that the policies of ousted dictator Numayri which had neglected the livelihood issues in the Sudan in general and the south in particular motivated some southerners to carry arms.

"In 1985 the Sudanese people was fully mobilized against the ousted dictator Numayri's regime and had succeeded in creating a new change by its April uprising", he said.

He remarked that the new democratic system in Sudan had extended a peaceful arm to put an end to the violence and paved the way for peaceful dialogue to terminate disputes by the political reconciliation.

"But the leadership of those who took arms refused to resort to peace and escalated its military operation as if the regime of dictator Numayri is still existing," Al-Mahdi noted.
He called for working out basis of fraternity charter among the religious which was based on faith of Almighty. Al-Mahdi said that Sudan was the country of tolerance and qualified to adopt the message of fraternity and tolerance among the religious.

SPLM-SPLA Declares 3-Day Christmas Cease-fire

EA241632 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 24 Dec 86

[Text] The SPLM-SPLA Military-Political High Command has released a statement declaring a 3-day cease-fire on the occasion of Christmas. Here is the full text of the statement: In response to the request of the [words indistinct], the SPLM-SPLA Political-Military High Command unilaterally declares a cease-fire beginning at 2400 on 23d December 1986 to 2400 [words indistinct] This cease-fire does not include moving targets, whether by land, river, rail or air, and all SPLA units [words indistinct] (?targets) so that the enemy does not take advantage of the good gesture of the [words indistinct]. In this connection the Commander in Chief of SPLM-SPLA (?wishes to) [words indistinct] all Sudanese a happy New Year, hoping that those who (?call) themselves [words indistinct] and brag about exterminating (?the southern Sudanese) [words indistinct] democracy, prosperity, peace, equality for all Sudanese irrespective of race, skin color, religion, or family background.

Interior Minister Dicusses Riots, Security

JN241815 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 22 Dec 86 p 18

[Interview with Interior Minister Sayyid Ahmad al-Husayn by *Al-Siyasah* correspondent 'Abd al-Rahman al-Amin in Khartoum — date not given]

[Excerpts] [Al-Amin] We welcome your excellency to this interview, which will really be in the form of a dialogue. We will touch on a broad spectrum of issues. The most important topic to begin with is perhaps your statement to the Constituent Assembly a few weeks ago during its emergency session to discuss the riots and acts of sabotage in Khartoum on 25 October and the days that followed. Can your excellency tell our readers exactly what happened?

[Al-Husayn] I welcome the Kuwaiti *Al-Siyasah* and it is my pleasure to meet with you in this office to conduct this dialogue and answer all your questions. What happened on 25 October and the days that followed were planned and organized riots. The information available to us confirmed that there was a certain political side which I named before the Constituent Assembly, the Islamic National Front to be specific. The plan was to stage demonstrations in Khartoum and the regions simultaneously. The slogans were united, the leaflets were already prepared, and it was planned that the riots would spread to all Sudanese cities. This is what the leaflets stated. [passage omitted]

The same organization tried to stage riots in other regions but the plot was foiled, and public opinion in Sudan was against this sabotage plot. They are still talking about mobilization in the Khartoum University student bodies. They are starting with attacks on the constitutional amendments and are doing all they can to hamper these amendments because they are to rectify some inherited conditions. During the defunct Numayri regime, many groups acquired illegal profits, and this should be dealt with constitutionally. The constitutional amendments are not intended to grant the executive authority rights which are not

subject to the judicial authority. The main amendment is concerned with Article 16 of the constitution on removing the effects of the Numayri regime, administrative reform, and some other related issues. [passage omitted]

[Al-Amin] Mr Minister, in your statement at the Constituent Assembly meeting to discuss the riots, you frankly accused the Islamic National Front of masterminding these riots. You have reiterated this charge in this interview. My question is: Did the elements of the defunct state security organ take part in these riots?

[Al-Husayn] Yes. During the first and second days of the riots, certain persons from this organ appeared and participated in the riots. But when they realized that the aurhorities were vehemently confronting these riots, they withdrew, leaving behind elements of the Islamic National Front. I would like to say that our organs monitored certain persons from the May regime who were making certain moves. However, we did not arrest them because we did not have enough evidence to make them appear in court. The security information we obtain does not provide us with enough evidence to arrest people because they are not emergency laws. Unless we have evidence that can be accepted by the court, we do not arrest suspects. [passage omitted]

[Al-Amin] What are the criteria by which you allow demonstrations and marches?

[Al-Husayn] Basically and in general, the right to stage demonstrations in protected by law. This is a form of expression. However, these demonstrations are governed by certain rules related to tribal prejudices, the war in the south, and the remnants of the defunct regime who had certain interests and want to undermine the new democratic system. Therefore, we consider petitions for demonstrations in light of the information we have. When we realize that what is intended by the demonstration is to create disturbances and riots rather than express a political opinion, we reject this petition. Sometimes we receive a petition from a certain political body which wants to stage a demonstration to provoke another political body to clash with it. In general, we do not grant permission for demonstrations to create disturbances and undermine security. Therefore, our criteria are subject to the information we receive. This information must be documented. [passage omitted]

[Al-Amin] I read here in Khartoum a newspaper report about the government's intention to establish a new apparatus which will deal with both internal and external security in place of the former state security apparatus. Can you tell us about the new system?

[Al-Husayn] What is new is that both organs will be attached to the Interior Ministry. The transitional government attached both organs to the police force, like central intelligence. They are part of the police department, which is part of the Interior Ministry. What is new is that the elected government has found it better to separate the external security apparatus and make it independent, like the police department, which is attached to the Interior Ministry. So the elected government has found it better to separate the external security apparatus and attach it to the Interior Ministry. Therefore, the internal as well as the external security organs are now part of the Interior Ministry. The internal security organ is the same, that is, it is part of the police department and hence, of the Interior Ministry. From an organizational point of view, the external security apparatus is now part of the Interior Ministry because it will have many tasks and various duties. We are now endeavoring to enact a law for this apparatus which will define its duties and the tasks of its members. We want it to be a national apparatus such as the police and the Armed Forces. We do not think that this apparatus will have executive powers but will collect information and analyze it. As for its executive tasks, they will be referred to the central intelligence department and other police organs. [passage omitted]

[Al-Amin] Let us move on to the war in the south. To what extent has this war affected the country's security?

[Al-Husayn] This war has certainly affected the northern part of the country. We are in dire need of security and stability to deal with development. The war exhausts our resources and greatly affects our security because we are a democratic regime which allows many political organizations freedom of expression, work, and movement in the country. There are also other problems engendered by the war, such as the displacement of persons because they fear for their lives and property and to avoid starvation. These circumstances affect security. No matter what we do as departments, we cannot know the real motives of those who leave the south for the north. The conditions which we inherited from Ja'far Numayri created racial problems. There are many elements that sympathize with the current rebellion in the south. This rebellion has created tribal problems, looting, and crimes, and threatened national unity. Certain groups were formed to loot and destroy property indiscriminately and regardless of whether John Garang wins or loses. The flow of arms in the south has aggravated the situation even more. [passage omitted]

TUNISIA

Minister Mabrouk Speaks on Foreign Policy

LD261413 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic
1200 GMT 26 Dec 86

[Text] Under the chairmanship of its speaker Mahmoud Messaadi and in the presence of Prime Minister Rachid Sfar and a number of ministers, the Tunisian Chamber of deputies this morning listened to the replies by Foreign Minister Hedi Mabrouk to the questions of the chamber members.
Hedi Mabrouk began his replies by saying that President Habib Bourguiba has asked him to convey his loving feelings to Messaadi and his most sincere feelings and encouragement because of the work they are conducting firmly, seriously, and boldly. He brought the good tidings to the deputies that President Bourguiba, who is now in Paris, is in good health and through the media, is daily following the progress of life and the work of the chamber in Tunisia, all of which arouses his pride and reassures him about the present and future of our country.

The foreign minister then began to speak about the established principles of our foreign policy. He said that it was inspired by

Bourguiba's philosophy and genius and that the changes that take place occasionally involve persons and methods of action, but not the essence of the policy.

Hedi Mabrouk also spoke of the organic link between the foreign and domestic policy. He said that Tunisian diplomacy's duty was to present Tunisia in an honorable manner, and this in turn demands the cooperation of all capabilities so that the Tunisian diplomatic corps would live up to the level of Tunisia's foreign stature and would serve our country's economic causes.

Hedi Mabrouk then spoke of the unification of the Arab Maghreb. He pointed out that the political will for realizing this dream derives its roots from the wide, popular ambition of all the region's countries. This is in addition to the current international economic conditions which dictate the creation of unified fronts to face up to the economic groupings formed in the world and to save us from competing individually and weakly, thus making us easier to crush.

He affirmed that the Tunisian Government's views on the creation of the Arab Maghreb were founded on realistic foundations which bolster bilateral relations, in addition to contributing to reconciliation among the region's member countries when they have problems and to working seriously to bolster economic relations. The visit by Tunisian Prime Minister Rachid Sfar to Algeria and the Tunisian Foreign minister to Morocco and Mauritania provide the best proof of this fraternal policy toward all the countries of the region.

The positive results of the steps we have taken toward economic integration, he said, have shown the need to continue along the road bourguiba has chosen for us.

Hedi Mabrouk welcomed the idea of creating a parliamentary structure among Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco, and Mauritania. He added that the Tunisian Government will seek to facilitate this interparliamentary cooperation.

Hedi Mabrouk then spoke of the visit by Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid to Tunisia. He said it falls within the framework of information and fruitful consultation, which characterizes the relations between the two countries, while each of them preserves the established principles of their own policy. He said Tunisia derives its policy from Bourguiba's genius and wisdom and the will of the Tunisian people.

With regard to our policy towards Libya, Hedi Mabrouk pointed out that we are a country that adheres to good neighborliness with all the Arab countries and that we have long standing relations with the Libyan people, which makes us always deal with them in a fruitful and honest manner. Recently, he said, Libya has expressed a desire for rapprochement to be followed by the restoration of diplomatic relations and the solving of problems. But Tunisia expressed the desire to solve the problems before restoring diplomatic relations. It seems that these days agreement is moving in this direction; but, as matters stand now, there is no radical solution.

With regard to the Saharan problem, he pointed out that it was a thorny one. He added that without abandoning its responsibility, Tunisian diplomacy has been tackling the matter most carefully, out of the feelings of balanced friendship and fraternity between all the sides. He added: Our strong relations with the three countries will help us to participate in finding a solution for the Saharan problem.

With regard to our relations with the Arab world, he pointed out that Tunisia adheres to Arab fraternity. This is because its heart is arab. He added that Tunisia's relations with the Arab world are not affected by economic considerations. He announced that on the instructions of President Habib Bourguiba, the Tunisian foreign minister will pay a series of preliminary visits, to be followed by visits at the highest level, for furthering contacts with the Arab world.

Speaking of Tunisia's attitude toward the Gulf conflict, Hedi Mabrouk reiterated Tunisia's absolute support for fraternal Iraq in its war against Iran and its earnest desire for halting the bloodshed by peaceful means and through negotiation. He spoke in this regard of the efforts which were exerted and continue to be exerted by Tunisian diplomacy and about the contacts Tunisia has made within the framework of the 7-member committee to end the conflict.

Hedi Mabrouk then spoke of our position toward the Palestinian question. He affirmed that Tunisia — president, government, and people — is concerned about this issue and adheres stubbornly to its stands of sincere and serious support for it, and to offering sacrifices and utilizing all capabilities for serving Palestine.

The Tunisian foreign minister then spoke of our relations with the United States and the European countries. He said that our cooperation with these countries has no effect on our political line, which stems from the Bourguibite philisophy and popular willpower, and was based on respect for democracy, human rights, and the freedom of the individual, which he said were all from established elements of Tunisian domestic policy.

Referring in particular to our relations with the EEC, which have recently witnessed some difficulties, Hedi Mabrouk said that a large part of these difficulties has been overcome thanks to the help of Spain, in particular.

With regard to our communities abroad, Hedi Mabrouk said that they number 400,000 people including 293,000 in France. He affirmed that the diplomatic service pays great attention to our communities with a view to safeguarding their rights and defending their dignity and utilizing all capabilities to serve them through the consulates and social and cultural attaches. He added that the religious aspect also enjoys the attention of Tunisian diplomacy abroad. In this respect, attention is centered in particular on the second generations, to protect them from the loss of Arab and Islamic identities.

Hedi Marbouk affirmed that the current stay of President Habib Bourguiba in Paris calls for reassurance and pride in the hearts of our sons.

Concluding, Hedi Mabrouk said: Before leaving Paris, I asked President Habib Bourguiba whether he had any instructions he wishes me to carry to the chamber. He added that the president told him that he had no instructions for the Chamber of Deputies

because it was an elected authority which performs its role with no need for instructions from me.

Speaker Mahmoud Messaadi then took the stand. He expressed the chamber's pride in the noble paternal feelings expressed to them by President Habib Bourguiba through his foreign minister. This, he said, provides the best incentive for the deputies to continue forward with their parliamentary mission in the best possible manner.

After that, the chamber approved the Foreign Ministry's budget bill and moved on to consider the Ministry of Interior's budget bill for the coming year in the presence of Interior Minister Zine Labedine ben Ali. The total allocations for this ministry amount to 184.11 million Tunisian dinars, representing an increase of 63.4 percent.

The Chamber of Deputies a short while ago began debate on this latter budget. We will report to you about the discussions in our future bulletins.

Sfar Receives Mauritanian Foreign Minister
LD241505 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic
1200 GMT 24 Dec 86

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Rachid Sfar this morning received Mauritanian Foreign Minister Ahmed Ould Minnih. The Mauritanian minister conveyed Mauritanian President Maaouiya Ould Sidi Ahmed Ould Taya's greetings to the supreme combatants, President Habib Bourguiba, and his wishes of good health for him and continued progress for the Tunisian people.

The Mauritanian foreign minister said the talks were fraternal and amiable and focused on bilateral relations, which he said are excellent and will develop and strengthen. He said the talks also dealt with many issues of mutual concern. [passage omitted]

ETHIOPIA

Cuban Delegation Arrives in Addis Ababa

EA252249 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 25 Dec 86

[Text] A delegation led by Comrade George Risquet Valdes, Politburo member and secretary of the PCC Central Committee, arrived in Addis Ababa this afternoon for a friendly and working visit, during which they will hold talks on the basis of the cordial relations between the WPE and the PCC.

They were met on arrival at Bole International Airport by Comrade Shimeles Mazengia, Politburo member and secretary of the WPE Central Committee. Present at the ceremony were Comrade Ushagre Yigletu, member and secretary of the WPE Central Committee, and Comrade (Antonio Perez Ferreiro), member of the PCC Central Committee and Cuban ambassador to revolutionary Ethiopia. Among the delegates who arrived today, is Comrade (Raul Valdisu), member of the PCC Central Committee and director of (Nikokekez) Political School.

Meets With WPE Members

EA271449 Addis Ababa in Amharic to Neighboring Countries 1600 GMT 26 Dec 86

[Text] Comrade Fisseha Desta, Politburo member and secretary of the WPE Central Committee, today received and held talks with the delegation led by Comrade Jorge Risquet Valdes, member of the Politburo and secretary of the Cuban Central Committee. Comrade Fisseha and Comrade Risquet Valdes held lengthy discussions on existing relations between the two parties.

Meanwhile, Comrade Berhanu Bayeh, Politburo member of the WPE Central Committee and foreign minister, received and held talks with Comrade Risquet Valdes on bilateral relations.

In a related development, Comrade Ashagre Yigletu, member and secretary of the WPE Central Committee, held discussions with the delegation on the exchange of experiences between the WPE and the Cuban Communist Party.

Holds Talks With Mengistu

EA271455 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1000 GMT 27 Dec 86

[Text] Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam, secretary general of the WPE Central Committee, chairman of the PMAC, and commander in chief of the Revolutionary Armed Forces, has received and held talks with Comrade Jorge Risquet Valdes, member of the Politburo and secretary of the Cuban Communist Party. During the ceremony, which was held at the comrade secretary general's special office at the WPE Central Committee today, our comrade revolutionary leader discussed with Comrade Risquet the further strengthening of friendship between revolutionary Ethiopia and revolutionary Cuba with particular reference to the bilateral party relations. Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam and Comrade Jorge Risquet Valdes also exchanged views on prevailing international issues.

Present at the ceremony were: Comrade Berhanu Bayeh, member of the Politburo of the WPE Central Committee and foreign minister; Comrade Ashagre Yigletu, member and secretary of the WPE Central Committee; and Comrade Antonio Perez Herrero, member of the Cuban Communist Party Central Committee and Cuban ambassador to revolutionary Ethiopia.

SOMALIA

Committee Announces Reelection of Siad Barre

EA281529 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 1115 GMT 28 Dec 86

[Text] Today the chairman of the Central Election Committee, Challe Ahmad Hasan Sheikh Abdullah, announced the final outcome of the SDR presidential election. The election was held on 23 December 1986 in accordance with clause 43, section two, of the SDR presidential election law No 30 enacted on 16 November 1986.

The chairman said that 4,869,120 persons cast their votes. Of this total, 4,865,691 voted yes, 1,463 voted no, and 1,966 votes were invalid. Therefore, the SDR Presidential Election Committee declares that Challe Mohamed Siad Barre has been officially elected SDR president for the next 7 years.

Rally Supports Reelection

EA282222 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 1700 GMT 28 Dec 86

[Excerpts] A mammoth rally has been held to express support for the reelection of the SDR president for the next 7 years. Hundreds of thousands of people, including members of the armed forces and social organizations and members of the public from the various districts of Benadir region attended the rally at Mogadishu stadium this afternoon. The participants expressed their delight and support for the reelection of the SDR president, Challe Mohamed Siad Barre. The rally was attended by Challe Siad: the two vice-presidents, Challe Lieutenant-General Mohamed Ali Samantur and Challe Husein Kulmiye Afrah. [passage omitted]

Addressing the rally, SDR President Challe Mohamed Siad Barre praised and congratulated the people of Somalia for declaring their wishes during the election. The president also praised and thanked all the various committes that took part in election work. Challe Mohamed Siad Barre, the SDR president, promised and vowed that over the next 7 years he would lead the country on the same smooth and straight path along which he has led the country for the past 17 years. He said it was imperative for the general public of Somalia to play their role in the interests of the Somali nation.

The SDR president added that with the support of the Somali people, the government would surmount any obstacle that might hinder the progress of the nation. Challe Siad noted that over the past 17 years the country has experienced various calamities andthis experience will help the Somali nation to overcome any difficulties that may lay ahead.

Challe Siad, whose address at the rally was interspersed with patriotic songs, verse and applause, said that recently reactionary elements opposed to the unity and progress of the Somali nation had emerged in various forms. He said tribalism was the number one enemy of the Somali nation. He called on the Somali people to free themselves from tribalism and other phenomena that might obstruct the nation's progress. He urged them to work collectively for the speedy implementation of the nation's objective.

SDR President Challe Mohamed Siad Barre called on all Somalia to turn its attention to the production sector and make every effort to make this nation self-sufficient in food. [passage omitted]

President on USSR Ties, One-Party State

AU291253 Rome ANSA in English
1221 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Text] (ANSA) Rome, December 29 — Somalia, which has just resumed diplomatic ties with the Soviet Union, wants "normal relations, and nothing more", with Moscow, Somali President Siad Barre said in an interview with the Roman daily, *Il Messaggero*, today.

Barre, now 67, was re-elected as Somali president for a further seven-year-mandate yesterday. "The Soviet Union is a superpower which has very close ties with Addis Ababa", he said when asked if he sees Moscow as a more probable path for settlement with Ethiopia than other capitals. "It just does not suit us to have it as an enemy".

According to Barre, Somali "mistrust" towards Ethiopia remains "deep". "On the other hand," he asserted, "it had age-old origins. The Ethiopians used to push down as far as our region to steal our cattle and rape our women".

"But seeing that we must live here, we want to use every means to create a climate of detente in the area.

"This seems a propitious moment, and we will do everything to avoid losing it".

Barre also denied that requests from some Ethiopian refugees to return to their homeland should be read as a "criticism" of Somalia.

"Why should it be?" He asked. "It's natural to have nostalgia for one's own land. But, for the moment, those who can and want to return are a very small minority, living in a very hot, poor and truly inhospitable area".

"It's difficult to live for years off charity, and integration is long and difficult".

Asked whether Somalia's system of a one-party state was an obstacle to progress, he replied:

"To reach the point of a European-style democracy needs politically mature people.

"Before me, there were about eighty parties linked to the various tribes. They killed each other in the streets.

"We approve of ideological pluralism, but not when it is a pretext for leaving the field open to tribal antagonism".

Ambassadors to SFRY, Turkey Defect to UK, Canada

EA261621 (Clandestine) Radio Halgan in Somali to Somalia 1700 GMT 25 Dec 86

[Text] Recently two experienced ambassadors resigned from their posts in the Foreign Ministry of Siad Barre's regime. They are Hashi Shaykh Musa, who served in Belgrade, Yugoslavia, and asked Britain for political asylum, and Uthman 'Abd al-Rahman Zayli, who served in Ankara, Turkey, and asked Canada for political asylum.

SNM Units Attack Army Bases, Destroy One

EA272139 (Clandestine) Radio Halgan in Somali to Somalia 1700 GMT 27 Dec 86

[Excerpts] Units of the Somali National Movement, SNM, wing of the liberation forces launched a bitter attack on the regime's forces stationed at Gumburra, Balli (Cabanch) and Balli (Gubatleh), all in Hargeisa District in the northwest region of the country.

On the evening of 24 December the SNM fighters attacked the 50th Battalion of the 2d Brigade of the 26th Division of the Somali Army. The SNM units inflicted heavy casualties on the enemy forces. The SNM fighters killed the commander of the 50th Battalion, Colonel Nagaye, 4 other officers, and 110 soldiers. The SNM forces also wounded many soldiers. [passage omitted]

The reports add that the SNM fighters completely destroyed the base of the 50th Battalion at Gumburra, 30 km away from Hargeisa.

The SNM fighters lost four martyrs. Fifteen fighters were wounded. One vehicle mounted with a field gun was also lost.

CHAD

Further Reportage on Tibesti Region Battles

France Drops More Supplies

LD241340 Paris Domestic Service in French 1200 GMT 24 Dec 86

[From the news headlines]

[Text] A war at Christmas in northern Chad, where, for the second time, France has dropped equipment by parachute to the forces fighting the Libyan Army.

Official Denies Operation

AB241535 Paris AFP in French 1527 GMT 24 Dec 86

[Text] Ndjamena, 24 Dec (AFP) — The Chadian Government "categorically" denied on Wednesday afternoon that another parachuting operation was carried out by France in the Tibesti mountain area. Moumine Togoi, secretary of state at the Chadian Presidency in charge of information and orientation, "categorically and formally denied" this report in an interview with AFP.

24 December Communique

AB241352 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1330 GMT 24 Dec 86

[Communique issued by the Chadian National Armed Forces High Command in Ndjamena on 24 December — live or recorded]

[Text] The attack launched on Zouar on 21 December was violently repelled by the patriotic forces which inflicted heavy human and material losses on the enemy troops.

This morning, Wednesday, 24 December, at 0600 local time [0500 GMT], the enemy troops attacked Zouar using colossal air and ground forces. In successive waves, the enemy air force dropped all types of bombs on the Chadian civilian population in the region. Fierce fighting is in progress, inspired by the determination of the patriotic freedom fighters to drive Al-Qadhdhafi's aggressor troops out of the national territory.

France To Deploy Troops

LD241942 Paris Domestic Service in French 1900 GMT 24 Dec 86

[Text] In Chad the official in charge of French military affairs is planning to post advance forces on either side of the 16th parallel. This would provide, if needed, a relay for the operations undertaken by the Chadian regular forces. A column of about 1,000 Chadian soldiers is moving toward the Tibesti region to back up Goukouni Oueddei's supporters, who are still fighting the Libyan Army.

Further on Deployment

LD242216 Paris International Service in French 2030 GMT 24 Dec 86

[Text] [Announcer] In Chad it is still as difficult as ever to know exactly what is happening on the ground. Today Libya is reported to have made a new attack on the town of Zouar in the extreme north of Chad. This news, announced by official Chadian sources in Ndjamena, has been confirmed in Paris by Goukouni Oueddei's private secretary. Zouar is even said to be on fire after a violent bombardment by the Libyan Air Force.

Today's other news concerning Chad is the possibility envisaged by France of setting up advance posts around the 16th parallel. In fact (Daniel Desesquel), France seems to want to modify its operation there in the light of the development of the situation on the ground.

[(Desesquel)] It is impossible to find out from the French authorities whether or not an air drop was, indeed, made today in Zouar in the Tibesti where Goukouni Oueddei's men are being given a hard time by the Libyan troops and Air Force. Paris admits to having supplied logistic aid to the supporters of the former GUNT president, but operational secrecy shrouds the exact form of that aid. It has also been learned from well-informed sources that Paris is thought to be on the point of modifying its Epervier [codename for French operation] operation, which is essentially an air-based deterrent. According to this information, French units are said to be deploying at Kouba Olanga in the west and at Oum Chalouba in the east, two places around the 16th parallel where there is a clear strategic interest. If this information is confirmed, Paris would be reaffirming its presence on the ground without going against its sacrosanct line of not getting involved in any adventures north of the 16th parallel. Above all, however, these two bases would serve, if this was necessary, as effective relief bases for the Chadian National Army for military operations in the north.

In any case, Paris appears to be adapting itself to the course of developments on the ground. If it is out of the question for French troops to come to the assistance of Goukouni Oueddei's FAP [Patriotic Armed Forces] or to Hissein Habre's [Chadian National Armed Forces], the French high command appears to be preparing the means for rear support of the Chadian fighters. In Zouar, the fighters under siege are waiting impatiently for the reinforcements of a column said to comprise a force of 1,000 men and several hundred vehicles, which left Ndjamena 8 days ago and has been slow in arriving in Tibesti.

[Announcer] To conclude, as I was telling you in the headlines, the French Ministry of Defense and the Chadian Government have denied that there has been a new air drop of French equipment to Goukouni Oueddei's supporters who are fighting the Libyan forces.

Libyans Repelled at Yebi Bou

AB251232 Paris AFP in English 1228 GMT 25 Dec 86

[Text] Ndjamena, Dec 25 (AFP) — Chadian forces repelled a Libyan attack on the oasis of Yebi Bou, in the eastern Tibesti

mountains in the north of the country, it was announced here Thursday. [25 December]

Secretary of State at the Presidency Moumine Togoi Hamidi said the Libyans suffered heavy losses in men and equipment after launching the attack on the outpost at 1500 GMT Wednesday.

He added however that the government here expected further Libyan attacks in the near future.

Libyan forces attacked the town of Zouar in the Tibesti region on Wednesday, and although they were repulsed they were still laying siege and "massacring" the population, Mr Togoi Hamidi said.

25 December Communique

AB251253 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1200 GMT 25 Dec 86

[Communique issued by the Chadian National Armed Forces High Command on 25 December in Ndjamena]

[Text] The Libyan aggressor forces are obstinately carrying out their aggression against the Chadian people. In pursuing their strategy aimed at quickly overcoming the rear bases of the patriotic forces in order to launch offensives deeper inside the Chadian territory, the Libyans attacked Zouar on 24 December at 6 o'clock [0500 GMT] in the morning. They werenot content with this. That same afternoon it was the turn of Yebi Bou, where fighting began at 1600 [1500 GMT] and ended only at about 2000 [1900 GMT]. The fighting was exceptionally violent. The enemy was repelled by the patriotic forces.

Meanwhile, the Libyan aggressor troops are engaged in all sorts of extortions against the civilian population in the Zouar region. The High Command of the Chadian National Armed Forces assures the patriotic forces fighting against the common enemy of the total support of all active forces of the Chadian nation.

Al-Qadhdhafi Reported at Largeau

LD261510 Paris Domestic Service in French 1245 GMT 26 Dec 86

[Text] Here is a piece of news which should be taken with a grain of salt: Colonel Al-Qadhdhafi is reportedly in the Largeau palm grove in Chad after first visiting Aozou.

Togui Denies Report on Rebels

AB261629 Paris AFP in French 1508 GMT 26 Dec 86

[Excerpt] Ndjamena, 26 Dec (AFP) — [passage omitted] Moumine Togoi Hamidi, Chadian secretary of state at the Presidency in charge of information, has criticized reports from Tripoli that it was Chadians in opposition to President Hissein Habre's regime who are fighting Goukouni Oueddei's forces in the Tibesti. Togoi felt that this was pure "disinformation." "Everyone knows that no opposition exists. It is a pure lie," Togoi Hamidi told AFP. "Those fighting against Libya in the Tibesti are Chadians, grandchildren of those who accompanied General Leclerc" (who, at the head of the second armored division, led the Tripoli campaign against German troops during World War II).

"These diplomatic circles (who mentioned in Tripoli the presence of Chadians in opposition to Hissein Habre among the Libyan forces) are playing the game of Al-Qadhdhafi in his advanced flight. 'They' are scared of Al-Qadhdhafi. 'They' adopt the policy of latitudes and longitudes and 'they' are ashamed to say they give assistance to the Chadian people," the minister added. "Certainly, our friends cannot do everything for us and on our behalf, but there are things that should not be said," continued Togoi Hamidi,who denounced these "stabs in the back, whoever the perpetrators may be." "History is formidable. Chad will recover its entire territory and emerge nobly from these events," he concluded.

Togui Hamidi also pointed out that the Chadian Government has not "censored the press in the Western sense of the word." "There has been no strong decision which can justify the shock expressed by the public opinion, and particularly the American press," he added.

"We have decided to control information due to circumstances." According to Togoi Hamidi, this control is justified by the fact that "we are at war and the distortion of certain facts can mean the death of Chadian soldiers." "So far," Togoi Hamidi emphasized in conclusion, "not a single line has been banned."

Bombing Continues 26 Dec

AB261723 Paris AFP in English 1715 GMT 26 Dec 86

[Excerpt] Ndjamena, Dec 26 (AFP) — Libyan forces continued bombing pro-government positions in northern Chad Friday [26 December] after two Libyan offensives were fought back earlier this week, official Chadian sources said here.

They said that following the defeat of a Libyan drive against the town of Zouar in Chad's Tibesti region, Libyan planes based in the Aouzou Strip in northern Chad were carrying out air raids in the region. [passage omitted]

500 Libyan Dead Reported

AB261826 Paris AFP in French 1759 GMT 26 Dec 86

[Text] Kinshasa, 26 Dec (AFP) — The preliminary death toll from fighting between Chadian forces and Libyan troops in the Tibesti mountains as of last Wednesday's [24 December] attack is estimated at 500 dead on the Libyan side including six officers, it was learned from a Chadian diplomatic source in Kinshasa today.

According to the source, material losses included 3 planes and the destruction or immobilization of about 20 vehicles and several tanks.

The source, which confirmed the two attacks launched on Zouar

and Yebi Bou, added that the Chadian forces have not lost hope and are putting up a strong resistance in the field. The source did not give the figures for losses on the Chadian side.

Oumar Tours Tibesti Area

LD262057 (Clandestine) Bardai Chadian National Radio in French 1800 GMT 26 Dec 86

[Excerpts] Transitional Government of National Unity [GUNT] President Comrade Acheikh Ibn Oumar has just completed an inspection tour of the Tibesti-Borkou-Ennedi sector. Accompanied by a large delegation, the GUNT president was intent on explainingto thepopulation and its traditional notables at each stage of his trip the latest developments in the political-military situation in Chad. [passage omitted]

Comrade Dr Facho Ballam, answering questions in Tripoli by the Libyan press agency JANA, said that due to the French military intervention north of the 16th parallel, the GUNT is asking the Libyan Arab People's Socialist Jamahiriyah to implement the defense agreement signed with it. Dr Facho Ballam has also called for support to GUNT from the progressive states in the face of the imperialist aggression.

Reinforcements Reach Tibesti

AB271220 Paris AFP in English 1100 GMT 27 Dec 86

[Text] Paris, Dec 27 (AFP) — Chadian government troops sent to reinforce supporters of former rebel leader Goukouni Oueddei have arrived in the Tibesti region of northern Chad, scene of fighting this week between Libyan forces and Mr Goukouni's men, Chadian sources in Paris said on Saturday.

They said the column, which crossed the 16th parallel a few days ago, had reached Enneri Miski, close to Yebi Bou, in the east of the Tibesti mountain region. They added that the situation was very difficult for the "patriotic forces" (Mr Goukouni's men), who faced huge logistical problems with regard to weapons, ammunition and food. They had not received any fresh supplies since a French parachute drop of material on the night of December 16 to 17, the sources said.

Chadian sources said they regretted that no "friendly country, particularly France and the United States" had coordinated aid sufficient to match the forces being deployed on the ground by Libya.
Mr Goukouni, a former Chadian ; dent, split with his former Libyan allies in October and is und.. house arrest in Tripoli. His men have gone over to the government side of President Hissein Habre.

Habre Receives French Adviser

AB271430 Paris AFP in French 1834 GMT 26 Dec 86

["This dispatch has been cleared by the Chadian authorities" — AFP subslug]

[Text] Ndjamena, 26 Dec (AFP) — Hissein Habre, the president of the Republic, granted audience Friday to Jean-Christophe Mitterrand, President Francois Mitterrand's adviser on African affairs. This audience, which lasted more than 1 hour, was an occasion for Mitterrand to deliver a written message from the French head of state to Habre. The content of the message was not disclosed.

"Our discussions were straightforward and to the point, but pleasant, too," Mitterrand told AFP at the end of his audience. Mitterand also disclosed that he discussed with Habre the outcome of the Customs and Economic Union of Central Africa (UDEAC) heads of state summit which was held in Bata, Equatorial Guinea. Chad will host the next summit in December 1987.

Mitterrand is expected to leave Ndjamena Friday evening for Yaounde. He will meet Saturday with President Paul Biya.

He will leave Sunday for Gabon to attend the inaugural ceremony of the Trans-Gabon Railroad connecting Libreville and Franceville.

Faya Forces Hail 'Victory'

LD272228 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 2145 GMT 27 Dec 86

[Text] The revolutionary force and the masses of Faya municipality have stressed in a message sent to the brother leader of the revolution their firm determination to carry on the fight against the French and U.S. colonialists and their lackeys, the treacherous agents, until freedom is achieved for the Chadian people and Chad becomes Islamic, Arabic, and free to actively contribute toward the achievement of greater unity. In their message, the revolutionary force and the masses in Faya municipality hail the splendid victory won by the new legitimate government of national unity in Chad over the remnants of mutineer Habre, which are directly backed by the colonialist French and U.S. forces.

Commentary Raps OAU, UN

AB291058 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 28 Dec 86

[Station commentary]

[Text] Just like the rest of the international community, Chadians would like to spend the end of 1986 in peace, tranquillity, and brotherhood inside their internationally acknowledged border. Unfortunately, no country chooses its neighbors and Al-Qadhdhafi's Libya has decided that Chadians will not enjoy tranquillity this month of December which people all over the world consider the month for reviewing the achievements of the past year in order to plan for the upcoming year.

As a matter of fact, after massacring the innocent population of the Ennedi region, especially at Fada, Libya's Al-Qadhdhafi is now attacking the Tibesti region, using impressive weapons. For more than 15 days, Libyan armored vehicles, aircraft, and troops have been relentlessly attacking towns in the Tibesti region. Without the fierce and determined resistance put up by the patriotic forces, the Libyan troops would have succeeded in

annihilating the population of the various towns in the Tibesti region, namely in Bardai, Wour, Zoumri, and Yebi Bou, just to name a few. After every Libyan offensive and despite the powerful means being used, the patriotic forces have been using the inappropriate equipment at their disposal to put up the appropriate resistance, prompted as they are by an unflagging determination to do away once and for all with the Libyan invaders.

Everyone knows the losses inflicted on the Libyans after each of their offensives: jet fighters have been shot down, armored vehicles destroyed, and an impressive quantity of equipment seized.

Since these new developments started with Libya's aggression and Al-Qadhdhafi's stated determination to crush the Chadian population in the Tibesti region as he did in the Ennedi region, the international community has chosen to remain silent. This silence can be interpreted as an indication of complicity.

First of all, the OAU: It has issued no condemnation of the inhuman acts of Al-Qadhdhafi's troops in Chad, even though our country is a full-fledged founding member of the pan-African organization, which has an ad hoc committee entrusted with the Libyan-Chadian conflict. What is the committee doing? Why is it not reacting as it should to the situation? It is difficult to get any answers to these questions.

In the second place, the United Nations: it has received the Chadian Government's complaint about Libyan atrocities in the Borkou-Ennedi-Tibesti [BET], but has only issued verbal protests without any concrete decision as rightfully expected by Chad. Then there are our friendly countries, the list of which is long. To our great (?confusion) the list has shrunk.

Only two African leaders have reacted in a responsible manner. First of all, Senegalese President Abdou Diouf. According to him, the Chadian Government and the patriotic forces now confronted with savage Libyan attacks must be assisted in their struggle to drive Al-Qadhdhafi and his troops out of Chad. To this end, Diouf has called for appropriate assistance to be given to President Hissein Habre to help him get rid of the aggressors.

A similar courageous attitude is that of Husni Mubarak, president of the Arab Republic of Egypt, who has strongly denounced Libyan ongoing atrocities in the Tibesti region and appealed to the international community and all those who can help our country to do so in order to enable it to (?secure) the withdrawal of the Libyan troops from Chad.

In view of the serious situation arising from Al-Qadhdhafi's will to pursue his policy of annexation in Chad, one is surprised at some observations which can be rightly called indecent, as they clash markedly with the real situation in the field. As a matter of fact, what Chadian could uphold the concept of the 16th parallel which the media organizations talk so much of now as an imaginary dividing line between the BET and the rest of Chad, according to the authors of such observations?

On several occasions, the president of the Republic has denounced such insidious maneuvers in the press, and sometimes by the very people who count themselves as Chad's friends. These maneuvers, it must be said, are designed to instill in the minds of people the world over wrong ideas about Chad, namely that Chad is divided into two parts. This is the principal reason for our friends' (?hesitation) as whether to provide assistance to the Chadian National Armed Forces in their efforts to drive the bellicose Libyan troops out of Chad once and for all. This is why one will understand the anger of Chad's leaders, especially Moumine Togoi, secretary of state in the Presidency of the Republic in charge of information and orientation, who has reacted strongly to the costly diversionary campaign sponsored by the propagandists of the Libyan People's Bureau.

If the war (?does not) end in 1986, this is not to be blamed on Chad but on Al-Qadhdhafi's obstinate will to annex our country, which stimulates Chadians to defend themselves. We very much hope 1987 will be a year for the total liberation of Chad.

Libyans Take Zouar Oasis

AU291126 Paris AFP in English 1126 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Text] Paris, Dec 29 (AFP) — Libyan forces have overrun the Zouar oasis in nc thwestern Chad's mountainous Tibesti region, reliable sources said here on Monday.

The sources said the Libyans had taken the oasis from pro-government Chadian forces during Sunday night. The pro-government forces had withdrawn from the oasis to the tops of surrounding hills, they added.

Zouar is on a key desert route which leads from the Libyan border in the north to the strategic palm-grove of Faya Largeau in the centre of northern Chad.

Control of the oasis was one of the Libyans' main battle aims. They had attacked it on December 19 and again on December 22.

CAMEROON

French Envoy Says Position on Chad Unchanged

AB271514 Yaounde Domestic Service in English 1400 GMT 27 Dec 86

[Text] The head of state, President Paul Biya, this morning received in audience Mr Jean-Christophe Mitterrand, special adviser to the French president on African affairs. Talking to Radio Cameroon on the present situation in Chad, Mr Jean-Christophe Mitterrand said France maintains fully its position and nothing more. Mr Jean-Christophe Mitterrand came to Cameroon from Ndjamena, Chad, where he had talks with Chadian President Hissein Habre. He is expected to visit Gabon on Tuesday.

BURKINA FASO

Sankara Says ICJ Verdict Ends Border Dispute

AB241548 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 1300 GMT 24 Dec 86

[Statement by President Thomas Sankara on the verdict delivered on 22 December by the International Court of Justice at the Hague on the Mali-Burkina border dispute — live or recorded]

[Text] You will recall that in September 1983, barely a few weeks after the creation of the National Council of the Revolution, our first visit abroad was a friendly visit to the brotherly people of Mali. You will also recall that this visit made it possible to sign an agreement on the decision by Mali and Burkina Faso to refer their border dispute to the International Court of Justice at the Hague.

It will be recalled that this dispute had been jeopardizing relations between the two states since they became independent. It had even led to a war in 1974. Barely a year ago the two armies confronted each other again while the case was still in court.

On 22 December 1986, the verdict of this august body was given. It recognizes the sovereignty of our country over the Beli region which is still called the Agacher Strip, and Mali has been granted the village of Dioulouma and several farming hamlets. We thank the United Nations whose court is at the service of the people. We thank the Organization of African Unity which accompanied us on this march to peace. We thank all states that mobilized in favor of peace between Mali and Burkina Faso. We also thank all those in the world who were saddened by the fact that our two peoples were at war and are now rejoicing at the fact that peace has been restored today.

At this historic moment for our country and for Mali, one cannot forget all those whose blood and sweat were shed, whereas dialogue could have enabled us to avoid paying such a final tribute to them. At least dialogue would have made it possible for us to engage in other battles to reward the precious sacrifices of our citizens. We must also think of those living on the battlefront from the southern most tip of our common border with Mali to the northermost tip of this same border. These Malian and Burkinabe inhabitants in spite of proclamations made in their capitals, are livestock rearers and farmers, brothers and sisters, cousins. They remained powerless during the 1974 and 1985 wars. They were traumatized by the gunfire and by the splitting up of their families. How can one forget the indifference, the seeds of enmity that were harmfully and uselessly sown between the Malians and the Burkinabe.

Fellow Burkinabes, the Court has delivered its verdict. What should our attitude be. First it is our duty to keep our word. As we addressed ourselves to that court, it is our duty to respect its decision. We are Burkinabes. Let us prove this. Let us prove that we are honorable people.

Secondly we are revolutionaries. This merely means that we are preoccupied by the happiness of the masses. Our sovereignty does not exclude the interests of other people. We declare in particular that our pastoral lands on the Agacher Strip, which has been internationally recognized as Burkinabe territory, are at the disposal of the people of Mali and Burkino Faso. Malian farmers and livestock rearers are at home there and must continue to feel at home there as we await the confirmation of the presence of minerals there for the prosperity of our two peoples.

Our satisfaction is great. It is great because the court order has put an end, as far as we are concerned, to any dispute between Mali and Burkina Faso. Poorly demarcated borders will no longer lead to conflicts which have jeopardized our projects for the provision of roads, boreholes, clinics, schools, houses, in short for the people's happiness.

Now that the page has been turned, let us engage in frank cooperation because all obstacles have been removed. Let us develop our brotherhood. Long live the Malian people! Long live the Burkinabe people! Fatherland or death we will win!

TOGO

President Receives Congolese Foreign Minister

AB241701 Lome Domestic Service in French 1230 GMT 24 Dec 86

[Excerpt] General Gnassingbe Eyadema, RPT founding chairman and president of the Republic of Togo, this morning at the presidential palace in Lome received Mr Ndinga-Oba, member of the PCT Central Committee and minister of foreign affairs and cooperation of the People's Republic of Congo. Mr Ndinga-Oba was the bearer of a written message from Congolese President Denis Sassou-Nguesso who is also the current OAU chairman, to his brother and friend, Gen Eyadema. After the audience, the Congolese minister of foreign affairs and cooperation said that his visit concerns the excellent relations existing between the two heads of state, Denis Sassou-Nguesso and Gen Eyadema, and between the Congolese and Togolese peoples. Mr Ndinga-Oba, who inspected the weapons seized from the terrorist commando group on 23 September 1986, said that he was surprised and troubled to see so much resources wasted on aggression. [passage omitted]

MAURITIUS

India To Build Satellite Tracking Station

MB271528 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1400 GMT 27 Dec 86

[Text] India has announced that it will build a satellite tracking station on Mauritius in the Indian Ocean. Under an agreement signed in Port Louis, the Mauritian capital, India will also train Mauritian technicians to work at the station.

MOZAMBIQUE

Defense Ministry Announces Military Registration

MB261008 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 0800 GMT 26 Dec 86

[Communique issued by the Defense Ministry in Maputo on 20 December]

[Text] A total of 22 years have passed since the time the glorious Chai guerrillas took up arms and launched the struggle for the liberation of the fatherland occupied by Portuguese colonialists. On 25 June, 1975, Frelimo solemnly proclaimed Mozambique's total and complete independence and the country's transformation into a people's republic in recognition of the heroic, courageous, and victorious struggle of the Mozambican people.

However, imperialism believed this independence had to be opposed and defeated because the establishment that realized the most just aspirations of the working masses was a bad example for southern Africa. It is in this context that the then southern Rhodesia minority regime waged a war against us. Nonetheless, the unity of the Mozambican people led to the defeat of Ian Smith and the establishment of a majority government there.

Today, South Africa trains, arms, supplies, and directs terrorists made up by the most reactionary group of Portuguese and Mozambican citizens who saw their privileges jeopardized after independence. Thus, countries neighboring Mozambique are being used to infiltrate armed bandits into our coutnry. These bandits seek to terrorize our people and present themselves as an opposition group. In this context, under decree 4/78 of 23 March, the National Defense Ministry announces:

1. Military registration campaign for 1987 will take place throughout the national territory from 2 January to 2 March.
2. This process covers Mozambican young people of both sexes born in 1970.
3. For the purpose of military registration, those covered must carry with them:
    a) identity card
    b) declaration of residence issued by the political structure
    c) qualification certificate
    d) six photographs
4. The provincial recruiting centres will soon announce the military registration centers.

The struggle continues!

[Dated] Maputo, 20 December 1986

USSR Women's Delegation Arrives for Visit

MB241317 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1030 GMT 24 Dec 86

[Text] A delegation from the Committee of Soviet Women arrived in Maputo this morning for a friendly visit at the invitation of the Mozambican Women's Organization. During its stay in our country, the Soviet women's delegation will visit places of historical and socioeconomic interest, as well as exchange experiences between the two women's organizations. (Dania Salykovana), head of the delegation and secretary of the Supreme Soviet Presidium of the Tatar Autonomous SSR, said at the airport that the USSR was in favor of peace and goodneighborliness in southern Africa.

Holds Talks

MB261158 Maputo in English to Southern Africa 1100 GMT 26 Dec 86

[Text] Women from Mozambique and the Soviet Union are holding talks in Maputo on ways to improve friendship and cooperation. A delegation of the Soviet Women's Committee, which arrived in the Mozambican capital on Wednesday, has already laid a wreath at the Heroes' Square for the late Mozambican leader, Samora Machel. The Soviet delegation is headed by the secretary of the presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Autonomous Socialist Republic of Tatarskaya, while secretary general of the Mozambique Women's Organisation, the OMM, Salome Moiane, heads the Mozambican side. The two delegations are discussing cooperation between women's organizations of the Soviet Union and Mozambique. The talks coincide with the start of a week friendship between the two countries involving cultural exchanges. A Soviet dance group is in Maputo for a number of performances. The week of friendship is scheduled to end next Tuesday.

SOUTH AFRICA

Marion Island Landing Strip Under Study

MB291103 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1053 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Text] Pretoria Dec 29 SAPA — After initially denying knowledge of a project to build an airstrip on Marion Island, the minister of environment affairs and fisheries, Mr John Wiley, confirmed today an "ecological evaluation" of the effect on the environment such construction work would have was under way. He emphasised in a statement in Pretoria, in response to media reports, that the findings of the working group "will be decisive in the decision-making process as to whether a landing facility will be provided or not."

The *Observer* newspaper in London yesterday carried a report saying South Africa had decided to build an airstrip on the

Antarctic island under a plan possibly designed to prepare the site for testing nuclear missiles. The proposed four million sterling (about R12 million) runway would be capable of handling C-130 Hercules transport planes and was likely to provoke international controversy among both anti-apartheid campaigners and environmentalists.

In his statement, Mr Wiley did not refer to the nuclear allegations but gave reasons why the idea of a landing strip on the island had been "bandied about for some time." The minister said he considered it necessary to clarify the situation and place matters in perspective "as a result of confusing reports which have appeared in the media."

Responsibility for Marion Island and related functions had been transferred to his department in October 1985.

"An aspect which received early attention of the new managment was the high costs involved in servicing the island in emergency situations. During the past four years it was necessary to mount four emergency voyages," he said. South Africa maintains a 24-man scientific station on the island, which is situation 2000km south east of Cape Town.

Mr Wiley said the department was also responsible for the control of fishing in South African waters, and that the fishing zone around the island, (South African territory since 1947) presently received very little attention. "Control in the zone must of necessity be upgraded to a considerable extent. It is also clear that much more information is required about the fishing potential of that region."

It seemed likely that people would in future pay more regular visits to the island and that the need for better and more reliable contact would be of growing importance. "Furthermore search and rescue operations necessitate that a thorough study be made of the possibility of providing a usable landing facility in the area," he said.

"For some time now the idea of providing a landing strip of some sort on the island has been bandied about, particularly with a view to facilitating the movement of personnel. Because I am aware of the sensitivity of the environment of Marion Island, I approved, as a first step, that a thorough ecological evaluation for the construction of a landing strip on Marion Island be undertaken." Mr Wiley said he had consequently decided an environmental impact evlaution should be done "completely independent of the department."

"To this end a working group of recognised scientists from various disciplines has been established, one of whom is from abroad." The group was under the leadership of Dr G. Heymann, vice-president of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research and chairman of the South Afrian Scientific Committee for Antarctic Research.

"I wish to emphasise that the findings of the working group will be decisive in the decision-making process as to whether a landing facility will be provided or not on Marion Island," Mr Wiley said.

Regulations Issued To Counter School Unrest

MB290857 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0852 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Text] Pretoria Dec 29 SAPA — Wide-ranging new state of emergency regulations aimed specifically at countering unrest at black schools and colleges were published in a special government gazette in Pretoria today.

The proclamation by the state president, in terms of the Public Safety Act, enables the director general of education and training to issue, without prior notice, orders to strictly regulate the presence and conduct of pupils or other people on institutions premises.

Those contravening the orders face a maximum fine of R4000 or two years imprisonment, or imprisonment without the option of a fine, if convicted.

The director general may issue the orders "for the purpose of the safety of the public, the maintenance of public order or the termination of the state of emergency," and do so "without prior notice to any person and without hearing any person."

The orders will have to be published in the gazette, on radio or television and in either a nationally circulating newspaper or one with a circulation in an area particularly refrred to.

If the order applies to a particular person only, it has to be delivered to that person in written form. However, if the order is urgent and in the opinion of the director general cannot be delivered by any of these means in time, the order may be made known orally to those concerned.

The orders the director general may make are firstly a prohibition, or strict control and regulation, of the presence of a pupil, or any other person, on any school or hostel premises, and the use of school property, facilities or equipment.

He may prohibit any "syllabus, work programme, class or course" which has not been approved in terms of the Education Act, and prohibit a person "who is not officially concerned in the activities of a school from interfering with any such activities."

A person may be "prohibited from obstructing or disrupting any activity of a school."

The director-general may also prohibit "the wearing, possession or displaying on any school or hostel premises of a uniform, part of a uniform, t-shirt or other article of clothing, case, flag banner, pennant or poster or any article on which a slogan," specified in his order appears, or on which "the badge, emblem, name or flag of any organisation" specified in the order appears.

He may prohibit the distribution of "any notice, letter, book, pamphlet, poster, paper or any other writing dealing with, or containing any material" on a subject specified in his order.

The director-general may regulate or control "the movement or activities of pupils on any school or hostel premises."

Any or all of these orders would, as indicated in the order itself, apply generally to everybody, or a person specified "or to all persons belonging to a category of persons so specified."

The order or orders will also specify which school, schools or general area will be affected.

The orders will remain in force for periods which may be specified, or until they are withdrawn.

Besides the possibility of the fine or prison sentence on conviction for contravening such orders, the courts will also be able to declare "any goods, property or instrument" involved in the offence to be forfeit to the state.

Two Arrested in Connection With Espionage Case

MB281550 Umtata Capital Radio in English 10000 GMT 28 Dec 86

[Text] Two more people are reported to have been detained in the Defense Force spy saga. The investigation was sparked by the detention of a senior SADF officer based at a unit in Voortrekkerhoogte. The police have refused to give the officer's name or rank. The *Sunday Star* newspaper says the two detained in connection with the spy are not connected to the Defense Force. They are both being held in terms of Section 29 of the Internal Security Act. The paper says the SADF officer will face charges of espionage which could be linked to the activities of the ANC.

Security Forces Kill 3 'Terrorists' in Transvaal

MB261655 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1653 GMT 26 Dec 86

[Text] Pretoria, Dec 26, SAPA -- Defence Headquarters announced in Pretoria today that the security forces killed three ANC terrorists in the Weipe area of the northern Transvaal this afternoon. A group of terrorists crossed the Limpopo River between South Africa and Zimbabwe on Wednesday, December 24, a Defence Headquarters spokesman said. Early yesterday morning, a local farmer and one of his employees who were out hunting, discovered the group sleeping under a tree. "The farmer identified them as terrorists and fired a number of rounds. The terrorists fled. As part of the area protection system, the farmer contacted the security forces and a follow-up operation was immediately launched," the spokesman said. "This afternoon, the security forces made contact with the group, killing three of them. A quantity of mines, anti-personnel mines, and plastic explosive of Eastern Bloc origin, was captured. "It is obvious that this group intended to lay mines in the area as was the case last year. Follow-up operations are continuing," the spokesman said.

Prisoner Shoots Guards, Escapes

MB271258 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1255 GMT 27 Dec 86

[Text] Pretoria Dec 27 SAPA — Two policemen were shot dead by an alleged terrorist in the northern Transvaal yesterday, the SAP Directorate of Public Relations in Pretoria said today.

At 9pm last night W/O [Warrant Officer] T.J. Gerber, 44, and Sergeant J.M. Nel, 43, were transporting the captured man to Messina from the scene of a shootout between alleged terrorists and security force members, a spokesman said. "Three terrorists were killed and one captured. They were on their way to Messina when the terrorist managed to free himself, grab a loaded firearm and shoot the two members," he said. "Security force follow-up operations to trace the terrorist who shot the members are continuing. He is the last of a group of five. As announced by the SADF the other four have been killed in confrontation with security forces."

Both men, from Beitbridge, are survived by a wife and three children, the spokesman said.

Police Claim Detainee Died of Epilepsy

MB241908 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1904 GMT 24 Dec 86

[Text] Pretoria Dec 24 SAPA — A 20-year-old detainee died in the Boksburg-Benoni Hospital yesterday after becoming ill in the Modderbee Prison near Springs, police confirmed in Pretoria today. A police spokesman said in a statement that Mr Simon Marule became ill on Monday evening and was immediately transferred to the Boksburg-Benoni Hospital. "His illness was initially diagnosed by a hospital doctor as epilepsy and he died the following morning in the hospital."

The police spokesman said a post mortem would be held to determine the precise cause of death. His next-of-kin had been informed immediately, the SAP said.

The spokesman could not say how long Mr Marule had been detained or whether he had been held in terms of the emergency regulations.

Mr Marule's lawyer said earlier he had been held without charge since July under the state of emergency.

Seven Hurt in Racial Violence at Natal Beaches

MB270655 Umtata Capital Radio in English 0600 GMT 27 Dec 86

[Text] Racial violence on Natal's beaches has left at least seven people injured. Widespread violence between whites and blacks at Amanzimtoti left six injured after fighting broke out. Police say bottles, knives, and rocks were used in the clashes.

Cars were reported to have been stoned and one person seriously injured in fighting on Durban's North Beach. At least six cars were damaged in fighting and stone throwing near Blue Lagoon and Battery Beach.

Information Bureau Issues Daily Unrest Reports

24 December

MB260816 Johannesbsurg SAPA in English 0815 GMT 26 Dec 86

[Text] Pretoria, Dec 26, SAPA — The Bureau for Informations' unrest situation report for the period 0000 on 24 Dec to 0000 on 25 Dec follows:

"In two seperate incidents radicals and moderate black people clashed. In Chesterville (Durban) a 16-year-old girl was wounded with a firearm by radical elements and in Sakhile (Standerton) two black men over the age of 18 were killed and three injured.

"Other unrest related incidents that were reported consisted of stone throwing and petrol bomb attacks on privates homes and vehicles."

Ends report

25 December

MB251051 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1049 GMT 25 Dec 86

[Text] Pretoria, Dec 25, SAPA — (Here follows the department [as received] of information's unrest report for the period 6pm last night to 6am today)

In Pimeville, Soweto, a group of about 20 black people threw petrol over a black woman. Her name is Gogina Makhanya of house 5222. They tried to set her alight with the necklace method. She received minor burn wounds. No arrests were made.

In Nzanany, Bethal, a group of unknown black people stoned a vehicle of the security forces. The security forces retaliated with shot-gun and pistol fire. Three black men were killed. A 20-year-old black man, Mr Vusi Kgwenwa, of 158 Nkondo St, Mzanani, was killed. The other two people are unkonwn. This incident occurred at 1st avenue in Mzanani. A member of the security forces was injured. One black man was arrested.

In KwaZakele in Port Elizabeth an unknown black man was murdered by the necklace method by an unknown group of black people. No arrests were made.

26 December

MB270829 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0827 GMT 27 Dec 86

[Text] Pretoria Dec 27 SAPA — (Herewith follows the Bureau of Information's report for the period 00h01 to 24h00, Dec 26)

Only a few isolated incidents of stone throwing in four SAP districts were reported during the above period. One black man over 18 was slightly wounded and two men arrested during these incidents. Minimal damage was caused.

27 December

MB280858 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0850 GMT 28 Dec 86

[Text] Pretoria Dec 28 SAPA — Herewith Bureau for Information's unrest report for the period 0001 to 2400, Dec 27:

"Incidents of stone throwing at private vehicles were reported from only two SAP districts — Claremont (Durban) and Soweto. Two black men were arrested in connection with the incident in Soweto."

28 December

MB290949 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0940 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Text] Pretoria Dec 29 SAPA — Following is the Bureau for Information's daily unrest report:

"Unrest report 00H01 to 24h00 (28 December).

"A black man fired at two members of the security forces in Dobsonville (Soweto) yesterday, wounding one in the shoulder. No arrests were made.

"A group of black persons set fire to a private home in Sebokeng (Vereeniging) yesterday. One black man was seriously injured in the incident. No arrests were made.

"Black radicals threw a handgrenade on the roof of the private home of a councillor in Vosloorus (Boksburg) yesterday morning. The councillor's 13-year-old girl was injured by shrapnel. No other injuries were reported. Police investigation continues.

"Other reported unrest-related invidents comprised isolated stone-throwings and petrol bomb attacks."

Press Comments on Current Issues, Problems

25 December Press Review

[Editorial report]

THE CITIZEN: Congressmen Like 'Vultures'

Johannebsurg *The Citizen* in English on 24 December in a page 6 editorial agrees with the government's decision to refuse entry to two groups of U.S. congressmen planning a fact-finding mission in South Africa next year. "No doubt the liberal newspapers will claim that South Africa has nothing to hide, that the American Congressmen might be persuaded by what they find here to have second thoughts about sanctions..." "We reject this view. The U.S. Congress imposed tough sanctions despite some of its members haivng visited South Africa and despite pleas from South Africa...that the U.S. should not impose sanctions. The Congressmen should not be allowed here to pick at their prey like greedy vultures."

THE STAR: No Truce in RSA

"It is South Africa's tragedy that there is to be no truce to fraternise in no man's land, to weigh up the 'enemy' and to be able to concede that there is inherent good in all of us," says Johannesburg THE STAR in English on 24 December in a page 8 editorial. Some hopeful signs exist, however, like "the reservoir of goodwill that still exists between races, mocking the politicians and radicals who would drain it." "Surely it should be possible to build on that."

CAPE TIMES: Gordimer on People's Education

Cape Town *Cape Times* in English on 23 December, in a page 8 article, publishes "extracts" from South African author Nadine Gordimer's graduation address at the University of Cape Town, in which she reviews the ramifications of "people's education." Educational institutions "are power structures like any other supporting columns in the edifice of racist South African soceity. Universities in South Africa are in no way morally freestanding." "I believe yours is the first generation to have recognized that it is not only the racist segregation laws that need to be got rid of in order to open meaningful education for all in South Africa. It is the concept of what education is and for whose needs it is designed that has to be rethought." "Many people are afraid of the term 'people's education,' which is beginning to take the place of 'one education for all' as the necessity on the horizon in a new South Africa. For them people's education has an ominous ring of indoctrination." People's education "means getting rid of the conditioning that Africa and Africans, in fact, had no existence until whites looked on them." "Broadly, it means restructuring education at all levels and in all fields through a new attitude to the needs of the majority of the people...." "I hope that people's education is not going to be regarded by whites as something only blacks need." "Whites have been taught to ignore, have been totally excluded from black culture, in their education. The result of this stupid arrogance has been the loss of...the culture of the people *who were here*. A real South African culture will not come into being until European culture fuses with that."

DIE TRANSVALER: Futile U.S. Policy

Pretoria *Die Transvaler* in Afrikaans on 23 December says in a page 18 editorial that just as the cooling off in relations between South Africa and the United States has increased as a result of sanctions and disinvestment, so too the U.S. policy of constructive engagement impresses nobody anymore, not even the State Department. "It has become a futile philosophy of words transcending hard realities because the United States likes to listen to its own voice." Such a situation could leave people with good intentions in South Africa cold. Now George Shultz wants to talk to the ANC. Why? To convince them to stop their violence. It is doubtful. ANC activity will increase. Concluding, it says "this is another example of the United States stumbling over its clumsy feet."

DIE VADERLAND: Agreeing With Bureau

Johannebsurg *Die Vaderland* in Afrikaans on 23 December says in page 14 editorial: "Although we have misgivings about the new emergency regulation restrictions on the media, we agree with certain aspects of the Bureau for Information's adverisement," explaining new media restrictions. That is, according to the Bureau, that the emergency regulations have not succeeded in eliminating political agitation and subversive propaganda. It is not the Bureau's function to neutralize the revolutionary climate. "May we be spared that thought." It is the task of white and black leaders, political and otherwise, to solve the problems that have led to the unrest situation.

27 December Press Review

[Editorial report]

THE STAR Disagrees with Botha on U.S. Visit

Reacting to the "emotive appeal" by Foreign Minister Pik Botha as he rejected a proposed visit by two U.S. congressional groups, an editorial on page 6 of Johannesburg *The Star* in English for 26 December argues in favor of the visits. "By all means let Mr Botha score his points about rubbing salt in wounds and the ban on SAA [South African Airways]. But after diplomatic points have been made and taken, the congressmen should be allowed to see things for themselves." The editorial notes that *The Star* "has always believed that facts should be disclosed, that people should be informed, that the best decisions are taken with the benefit of the most knowledge. Allowing the congressmen to visit will allow them to discover the kind of harm that sanctions are causing, and to whom. It is unlikely that this will cause them to reevaluate their original misguided strategy; but it can't be more harmful than not letting them see at all."

Restrictions 'Retreat From the Real World'

Rob Nuttall, in his "Politics" column on page 6 of Johannesburg *The Star* in English for 27 December, calls the latest press restrictions "an almost total retreat from the real world." Nuttall warns that the lack of "street demonstrations by an angry and insulted public outraged that their most basic rights are being tampered with," for whatever reason, "bodes ill for South Africa." The bottom line is that "in fighting against the political aspirations of a majority of its own people, South Africa is making enemies of most of the rest of the world. Instead of being able to concentrate on internal solutions, we find ourselves fending off thrusts by the leaders of the Western world, not to mention the East and the Nonaligned countries." In looking toward 1987, Nuttall concludes that what is not needed from the government is "pouting-lipped aggression, threats and victimisation of people with an earnest desire to bring about peace in this country."

29 December Press Review

[Editorial report]

SUNDAY TIMES on Prospects for Reform

In a column on page 14 of Johannesburg *Sunday Times* in English for 28 December, Brian Pottinger writes about the "lull" in the reform movement. "The reform flow was sabotaged by a number of things: governmental incompetence, security force over-reaction, the blind intransigence of radical groups, international pressure, recession, and plain inertia." "The more the political programme falters, the more it becomes necessary for the Government to invoke extraordinary powers." Temporarily, the "wholesale denial of information to the public and curtailment of civil liberties may work to establish a sort of ragged peace

— the eye of the storm. But only political leadership and initiative can deflect the rest of the storm." Pottinger argues that black politics is also stalled, because "black activists in South Africa have for too long been locked into the use of the veto" — What Pottinger calls the "no factor." Black resistance is impotent because "it is fractured generally, ideologically incoherent and, in many ways, reluctant to surrender the seductive charm of sloganeering in favor of carefully considered alternatives and practical programmes to achieve those alternatives." The way out of this impasse involves a change of leadership of the National Party and the emergence of the "radical center" dedicated to traditional western values, "now so lacking in our national politics: freedom of speech, association and criticism," based on "a healthy and unmanipulated flow of information."

National Party 'Paralysis'

"To me, the most important event...of 1986 appears to be the paralysis of the Government and the National Party," says Alan Paton in an article on the same page. He attributes this at least in part to the NP's fear of the Afrikaner right, which has slowed down the pace of reform. Another reason for this paralysis is that "the Afrikaaner Nationalist does not easily adopt the role of reformer." Rather, he is used to ruling and finds "that it is harder to reform than it is to rule." However, Paton declares: "I, along with many South Africans, do not believe that sanctions will have the effect that their supporters hoped for," but "will further delay the policy of reform." "The idea that the wrecking of the economy will bring about a more just society and an era of peace is to us quite preposterous. Most of us are admirers of the United States, but we regard this action as an instance of extreme self-righteousness." Paton offers the Natal-KwaZulu Indaba as a better road to reform. "The Indaba is proof that the hatred and the alienation that so characterized the year 1986 are not universal." The Indaba's proposed self-governing region "would set an example of toleration and economic progress that would encourage other regions to follow its example."

Open Letter to Ambassador Perkins

In an open letter to U.S. Ambassador to South Africa Edward Perkins on the same page, Harald Pakendorf examines reaction to Pik Botha's hardline attitude regarding U.S. policy toward the RSA: "We feel a little bitter because we had been such good boys over the past few years that we had thought this year we would get a present. Instead we were fooled. Inside of constructive engagement was wrapped the involved American political process coupled with your moral outrage which comes and goes a little like Christmas — it comes regularly only to fade over time." "Mr Pik Botha can look fierce and intense, but he frequently adopts this mannerism to portray the feelings he, mostly correctly, thinks South Africans share with him." "We accepted that when Ronald Reagan and Chet Crocker were understanding the difficult reformation taking place here, that meant America felt like that." "That is why we became bitter when Congress again decided other than the executive branch." "But I need to add, and privately I am sure you will agree, that it is a bit steep to expect us to act normally towards you when act abnormally towards us." "Make no mistake, South Africa backs Pik Botha on this one. The problem, though,... is that there are really no South Africans in this country. We are all on our own, divided by our fears, hopes and aspirations, coupled with our language and other differences." "However, I understand a little of the ebb and flow of your political mood and know that once we have done what you are pushing us to do, your concern with the poor, the dispossessed and the less privileged will evaporate...you will turn your moral outrage elsewhere. We of course have to plough on, working towards a just society within which black aspirations are fully met without pushing aside white fears and rights. A difficult job — and your attitude is not really helping." And 1987 will be "a year in which I am certain isolation will grow, relations with your country will further deteriorate and high emotion rather than cool calculation will reign."

THE SUNDAY STAR: Press Essential to Freedom

Johannesburg *The Sunday Star* in English on 28 December carries a page 10 column by George Theiner, editor of "Index on Censorship," examining the role of the newly restricted press. "The drastic new restrictions have, for the time being, put paid to freedom of the Press in South Africa, whose newspapers will now find it difficult in the extreme to inform the public." "Even now, journalists will doubtless do their utmost to report truthfully whatever the law does not prevent them from reporting." "There is one aspect of Draconian censorship that the Pretoria Government would do well to consider. It has always seemed to me that unless there is a Stalinist-type police state to back it up — with no political opposition and no independent media to criticise the authorities — such censorship cannot be but inadequate and, to some extent, counter-productive." "There is not the slightest hope that the civil unrest and mass expressions of protest in South Africa will cease. No matter how stringent the Press regulations, the Government cannot prevent news about this from getting out. Worse than that, it is in just such situations that rumour thrives, frequently painting a picture blacker than it is in reality." "It is Pretoria which, in the long run, is likely to be the loser."

Qwelane on Desire for Freedom

"Why won't some white South Africans accept that it is inhuman policies like theirs which have catapulted this beautiful land into the abyss? In other words, why won't these white South Africans admit it is they — through their votes and support for the people they put in Power — who are responsible for the mess they threw us all in?" asks Jon Qwelane in his "Just Jon" column on the same page. "Let me sound a warning before it is too late: If those who have — at the expense of those whom they exploited down the years — do not want to share fairly with the rest of us what our country has for all of us, they risk losing everything they have when the moment of truth comes. You may have the big guns and the big battalions, you may even have the capability to make nuclear weapons — but even with all those, you will never be able to destroy our burning desire to be free." "If we cannot swim together, then we shall sink together."

Youth Forums Searching for Hope

An article by Gary van Staden on page 12 examines the role of youth in the South African situation. "Almost every weekend hundreds of young South Africans meet, often behind closed doors, to plan the 'revolution' they believe will one day change the face of their scarred land. But in this revolution the only weapon used is words and the only objective is to create a country where all can live in peace and with justice — an objective the young leaders of tomorrow believe their elders have no hope of realising." These forums are a manifestation of young people's

concern and are based on the belief that "it is possible to reach consensus." Problems encountered by such activists include funding and the anonymity preferred by those members who are black or identified with groups such as the United Democratic Front. "Black 'cell groups' are less active in their communities than their white counterparts. Because of their township activities they are also far more likely to be detained or arrested when they emerge to attend the forums." An Afrikaner student leader says: "'I am convinced that we are talking to the people who matter. The townships youths who attended our conference are heavily involved in activist organisations such as the UDF, they are boycotting schools and they hold pretty radical views.' 'There would be no point in talking to them if they didn't.'"

Sanctions No Game

In a page 13 interview with Fred Bell, "the man who has been given the top-secret task of freeing South Africans from their dependence on foreign technology," John MacLennan acknowledges that Bell "cannot speak about much of his work because knowlege of his efforts could harm the country." Bell remarks that sanctions are "'an economic war.' 'I don't doubt for moment we will be better off at the end of it.'" "But Mr Bell regards the sanctions campaign as a blessing in disguise because it is forcing the country to upgrade its technology." "'It will make us independent.'" "'I do not foresee South Africans being deprived of anything.'" "'We are not like the little Dutch Boy trying to plug his fingers into holes in the dyke. We can fix the whole thing.'"

Shultz Taking Risk With ANC Talks

George Shultz "is running political risks with his decision to hold talks here next month" with ANC leader Oliver Tambo, reports Neil Lurssen from Washington on page 13 of *The Sunday Star*. In addition to "displeasure among American Right-wingers," "some analysts here believe the deep chill between the United States and South Africa is unlikely to thaw for some months — at least until after a general election in which President Botha will probably get a mandate from his electorate. With America's diplomatic efforts in Pretoria on ice for the moment, now appears to be the best time to seek influence with an organisation which, until fairly recently, was held at arm's length by the State Department." "But it appears certain that the meeting will add to the chill that already exists between Washington and Pretoria."

ZAMBIA

AP Correspondent Released From Detention

MB251333 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 25 Dec 86

[Text] It has been announced that the Harare-based *Associated Press* correspondent, John Edlin, who was being detained by police in Lusaka for flouting the immigration laws, has been released. Home Affairs Minister Cosmas Chibanda confirmed in Lusaka that the journalist, who once worked for the *Times of Zambia* before he was deported in 1969, was released yesterday. Comrade Chibanda said Edlin, who was detained after [words indistinct], has since returned to Zimbabwe. Edlin was picked up last week by the Ridgeway immigration officials for having entered the country illegally. Comrade Chibanda explained that Edlin was not deported, but merely sent back as he is already a deportee.

ZIMBABWE

Yugoslav Paper Interviews Prime Minister Mugabe

AU271857 Belgrade POLITIKA in Serbo-Croatian 28 Nov-1 Dec 86 p 7

[Report on interview with Prime Minister Robert Mugabe by Momcilo Stefanovic, *Politika* permanent correspondent, in Harare — date not given]

[Excerpts] Harare, November — Although preoccupied with many duties and obligations because he is the leader and prime minister of his country, Zimbabwe, which stands at the center of the tense events in southern Africa, as well as the president of the Nonaligned Movement (101 countries and 1.7 billion people, three quarters of mankind), Dr Robert Mugabe was "very pleased and had great satisfaction," as he particularly pointed out, in consenting to give an interview to *Politika* for its Republic Day issue, "the first interview I grant as the president of the Nonaligned Movement." [passage omitted]

"After the Harare summit, my first task, as well as the task of those who work with me, is to try and do everything, in the shortest possible time, to realize and implement the decisions contained in the political and economic declarations. [passage omitted] However, when we analyzed the decisions after the summit, we arrived at an definite decision: the Disarmament Declaration is the most essential one and it demands work, action without delay. This also was my first, most important task as the president of the movement. Therefore, I immediately went to the UN General Assembly session and presented the essence of the most important Harare summit decisions. At the same time, I did my best to ensure that the summit messages were handed to the leaders of the two largest powers, the USSR and the United States, Mikhail Gorbachev and Ronald Reagan."

Having explained how these messages were handed over, saying that the message was handed to Gorbachev directly and quickly but that the message for Reagan was received as late as November by U.S. Vice President Bush, Mugabe said:

"We received an encouraging and good reply from Mikhail Gorbachev. He agreed with the Harare document and stressed that it should be borne in mind by all countries of the world. As we understood Gorbachev's message, he spoke about the Harare document to Ronald Reagan during their meeting in Reykjavik. We are pleased at this, because in essence there has thus been a reaction to this important nonaligned document and, I may say, to a certain extent a common view on it."

Asked how he regards the Reykjavik meeting in general, Mugabe said:

"Above all, we were glad that such a meeting was held. However, I must immediately add that we are not the happiest about the

results of this meeting or, rather, about it ending without result about the most important questions of international peace. Therefore, the nonaligned will do their best and will continue their pressure, if I may say so, so that the highest representatives of the two largest powers may meet again and try to harmonize their opposite views on many things." [passage omitted]

Having said this, Mugabe especially wanted to present in a pithy way a view that he mentioned at the Harare summit:

"I believe that what we jointly agreed upon at the summit will be quickly implemented. But personally I feel that we should examine how to advance the work of the movement, certain reforms, so that we may work more efficiently.... For instance, we have no secretariat. For this work I now use the Zimbabwean state apparatus. We shall consider the possibility of creating a mini secretariat which will make possible the implementation of the summit decisions.... You know, perhaps I, as president, will need some research, a unit that will watch over the development of current events and that will examine possible solutions for a quick reaction in an effort to resolve problems quickly." [passage omitted]

In concluding his interview, Dr Robert Mugabe also spoke about the relations between Yugoslavia and Zimbabwe:

"Zimbabwe and Yugoslavia are not new friends. Our friendship is of a special kind; it was forged in the common struggle and in the years of Zimbabwe's liberation struggle. I want to stress: Yugoslavia is one of the few countries that were always on the side of Zimbabwe, even when some of our friends in the African region abandoned the Zimbabwe National Union [ZANU] Party... Yugoslavia stood firmly by ZANU. [passage omitted]

"Also, after obtaining our independence, we tried to strengthen this friendship, by improving our cooperation in many fields, advancing economic cooperation and cooperation in the cultural field. Yugoslavia has participated in Zimbabwean development programs and projects. For instance, the Harare Conference Center, constructed by your Energoprojekt enterprise, is a magnificent monument to our friendship and solidarity." [passage omitted]

At the very end of his interview Mugabe spoke about the closest cooperation between Yugoslavia and Zimbabwe in the Nonaligned Movement:

"First of all I wish to express my gratitude for the contacts that I had with the Yugoslav delegation headed by the president of the SFRY Presidency during the eighth nonaligned summit in Harare. Those were great days for Zimbabwe! I want to say that the Nonaligned Movement and Yugoslavia are synonymous. We also cannot think of the Nonaligned Movement without thinking of Tito, as we must remember him when we speak about our friendship." [passage omitted]